



Figures reveal north-south spending divide

SHROPSHIRE Council spends 10 times as much on infrastructure projects in the north of the county compared to the south, new figures reveal.

The figures, obtained under the Freedom of Information Act, reveal that since the authority was formed nine years ago, the council has spent £428 per head on capital projects in

Market Drayton, compared to just £35 a head in Ludlow.

Oswestry, which has received £412 per head, and Shrewsbury, which has had investment of £390 per head, were the other big winners.

Whitchurch received £196 per head, while Bridgnorth received £132. The figures show that over the past nine years Shrewsbury received,

by some margin, the biggest share of capital investment, having nearly £28 million spent. This figure does not include the recent purchase of the town's shopping centres.

Over the same period of time, Oswestry has had just over £7 million spent on it. Among the projects supported were the Oswestry Teen-space programme at a cost of £2.7m

and work on the the unitary council's Oswestry depot at a cost of £1.5m. A sum of £671,522 was spent on the second phase of the traveller site at Whittington while £655,570 was spent on Oswestry's Market Towns Revitalisation Programme.

Councillors in the south of the county have criticised the funding imbalance. But a spokeswoman for

Shropshire Council said: "These figures are a summary of our big investments, which we call capital expenditure, since Shropshire Council became a unitary authority in 2009. It is important to note that our day-to-day spend, known as our revenue expenditure, which includes things like road repairs and the running of refuse vehicles, is not included."

RETAIL

Stores will close as part of plan to save company

TWO branches of a bargain shop are to close in Shropshire, the latest retail blow for the county.

The Original Factory Shop is closing its stores in Oswestry and Church Stretton. But the company says its Whitchurch, Bridgnorth and Market Drayton stores will remain open. In a statement the company revealed that it was having to close 32 of its 200 plus stores across the UK.

The Oswestry store is situated in the town's former cinema on the corner of Leg Street and English Walls.

The countryside store closures for The Original Factory Shop are part of a Company Voluntary Agreement (CVA) that will allow the company, also known as TOFS, to remain trading while it deals with its finances. It has not commented on the number of jobs that will be lost.

Eleanor Purdon, spokeswoman for the retailer, said: "The Oswestry store's closing sale has started ahead of closing."

This is part of the broader closure of 32 stores through the CVA process.

"It means new investment and the debt write-off from lenders will go ahead, putting the business on a much stronger financial footing to deliver the turnaround plan."

BUSINESS BOSS IN A5 ROAD VOW

Report by Sue Austin

THE owner of the British Ironwork Centre has vowed to carry out crucial road improvements within a 12-month timescale put forward by highways bosses.

The Highways Agency says it has no objection to the firm's retrospective planning application for its visitor attraction off the A5 on the outskirts of Oswestry. But the agency says if planning permission is given by Shropshire Council, improvements should be made to the entrance and exit to the tourist attraction within 12 months.

The highways organisation also says a plan should be put in place to manage traffic during special events at the site.

Clive Knowles, chairman of the British Ironwork Centre, said the conditions put forward by the Highways Agency were greater than the centre had anticipated but said the company was committed to carrying them out.

Mr Knowles said: "They are completely doable and we are confident that we will be able to complete them within the 12 months. The measures can only benefit our staff and our visitors and there is real enthusiasm now to get on with it." He said he was relieved the Highways Agency report backed the application as long as the road conditions were met.

Mr Knowles said: "We are relieved and our staff are very relieved. This is a very important step in the planning process and, I hope, can make a difference to the process going forward. We have 90 plus members of staff here and hopefully this is one very big step forward towards securing the future for us all here."

● Application – See Page 16

Golfer Ian happy to get back to where it all started



Golfer Ian Woosnam returned to Llanymynech Golf Club to unveil a plaque in his honour. Photo: Steve Leath.

GOLF star Ian Woosnam enjoyed a memorable homecoming when he was asked to unveil a plaque in his honour at the village course where it all started for him.

The 1991 Masters champion – who is also a multiple Ryder Cup winner – took a trip down memory lane by returning to Llanymynech Golf Club where he honed his skills as a youngster.

Woosnam, who was born in Oswestry and grew up in St Martins, was given a rapturous

welcome by club members and got emotional when he was asked to unveil the plaque detailing his achievements in the game.

"It's such a great honour – that is something very special," said the golfer who also captained Europe to Ryder Cup success in 2006.

"To come back and stand on the first tee and see a lot of people I haven't seen for a long time is overwhelming, I just want to say thank you very much."

"I found out about the plaque a few weeks ago and it's made me very proud."

The star unveiled the plaque alongside club president Brian Suckley and club captain Stuart Jones.

Mr Suckley told the golfer: "It's been many years since you shared these fairways with your mum and dad. Time moved on and you became a professional, your progression has been extraordinary."

● Emotional – See Page 19

EMERGENCY

Man, 74, rescued from house blaze

A MAN in his 70s was rescued from his house after a hedge fire spread in a village near Oswestry.

The fire started on Fitzalan Close in Babbinswood, Whittington, the emergency services said. It spread to a nearby house at around 4am on Saturday.

The fire service helped a 74-year-old man out of his property. One fire engine from Oswestry attended the incident.

On arrival the team used two hose jets to extinguish the flames. Everyone was reported to be safe and well.

INSIDE

It's all eyes on new exhibition



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CONTACT US

Associate Editor: Iain St John:
01691 668094
news@oswestrychronicle.co.uk
Reporter: Sue Austin: 01691 668099
sue.austin@shropshirestar.co.uk
Reporter: Jonny Drury 01691 668098
jonny.drury@shropshirestar.co.uk
Sport: Dave Cooper: 01952 241475
dave.cooper@shropshirestar.co.uk
Photographic: 01691 668094
Regional advertising sales manager:
Alison Jukes: 01743 283330
alison.jukes@shropshirestar.co.uk
Advertising supervisor:
Beverley Thompson: 01691 668092
beverley.thompson@shropshirestar.co.uk
Sales representatives:
Connor Harris: 01691 668090
connor.harris@shropshirestar.co.uk
Gary Tsang: 01691 668091
gary.tsang@shropshirestar.co.uk
Distribution: 01902 319537
p.jones@expressandstar.co.uk

14 Salop Road, Oswestry
SY11 2NU
www.oswestrychronicle.com

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Rail workers who died in war to be remembered

Report by Sue Austin

RAILWAY workers who died in the First World War will be remembered in a poignant ceremony.

A traditional railway lamp will be lit at the Cambrian railway station in Oswestry and ceramic poppies laid at the special memorial as part of a Cambrian at War event on Saturday.

This year the ceremony will be visited by the One Name One Voice project and also a convoy of Second World War vehicles from the Shropshire and Mid Wales Military Vehicle Group.

David Owen, the event organiser, said: "We have held a memorial event each year since 2014 to mark the centenaries of the men named on the Cambrian railways memorial, many of them from Oswestry, in which we have lit the memorial candle and laid poppies."

Students

The special poppies were made by students at the town's North Shropshire College.

Mr Owen said that 400 members of the Cambrian railways' staff left to go to war with 53 of them paying the ultimate sacrifice.

Each name was remembered on a bronze memorial which stood on the main platform at Oswestry station until it closed to passengers.

It was then transferred to Oswestry's Cae Glas Park.

There will be a short memorial service led by Reverend Dr John Chesworth at noon and music will be provided by the Oswestry Wild Singers.

During the day members of the public will be invited to take part in a unique project to remember all the men of Shropshire who fell in the 1914 to 1918 war. One Name One Voice, an aural art project, is recording all the names on the county's war memorials using a different voice for each name.

Some of those involved will be attending the Cambrian at War event to record the names.

Green bottle memorial to fallen soldiers



One hundred green bottles are hanging at Morton Church near Oswestry for an unusual memorial to the country's fallen soldiers

A COUNTRY church is paying homage to soldiers from the First World War and the power of prayer in a unique memorial.

There are not 10 green bottles but 100 hanging on the wall at Morton Church near Oswestry. Each day a prayer attached to a bottle will be read and the bottle lain down in memory of a soldier who died in the war.

The symbolic installation is part of Remembrance 100, part of a nationwide Christian event in the 100 days leading to Armistice Day.

Reverend Cathy Trimby explained that on August 4, 1918, King George V called a National Day of Prayer. One hundred days later the war ended. "It was a remarkable example of the power of prayer," she said. "To mark the centenary of the end of the war there are 100 Days of Peace and Hope across the country - prayers, Bible readings, reflections and peace-making activities."

"I thought that the 100 green bottles would be a powerful symbol. As the 100 days goes on more and more of the bottles

will be lain down on the ground in memory of a fallen soldier."

She said that prayer would be said at the church at 11am each morning between now and November 11 and invited members of the public to write their own prayer for a bottle.

Remembrance 100 is a collaboration between Christian denominations, ministries and chaplaincies to help churches mark the centenary of the First World War at the heart of their communities.

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Politician welcomes £1m boost to travel

A POLITICIAN has welcomed a Welsh Government pot of almost £1 million to fund walking and cycling in Mid Wales.

The government has confirmed that Powys's bid had been successful and has been included in the first share of the £60 million to support active travel schemes across Wales.

As part of the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan Mid-Point Review 2018, more than £10 million has been earmarked for individual projects across Wales during this financial year. Active Travel funding is designed to boost walking and cycling infrastructure, improve safety, support the economy, reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality and build physical activity into people's daily lives to deliver wider health benefits. Under the plans, over £500,000 will be invested in Newtown, including a new active travel bridge over the River Severn. Responding to the positive news, Russell George, Assembly Member for Montgomeryshire, said: "Whilst it has to be acknowledged that potholes and poorly maintained roads which are in a desperate state of disrepair and require attention, this pot of money was specifically for active travel schemes so it is positive news that Powys's bid for Welsh Government funding has been successful following a competition between local authorities."

Fake gardener in money theft

A CONMAN pretending to be a gardener stole cash from two homes.

Both offences took place on August 4. Between midday and 2pm a man walked into a bungalow in St Martins and stole cash from a drawer. Later in the afternoon, a man walked into a house in Railway Terrace, Ellesmere, while the householders were at home and took cash from a bedroom.

Survey ongoing after wartime shells scare

Report by Jonny Drury

A SPECIALIST explosive disposal company is still surveying parts of a building site where two wartime shells were found earlier this year.

The shells were found at a site off Artillery Road, in Park Hall, Oswestry, where a number of houses are being built by Chartland Homes on land that was formerly an army camp.

For three weeks the disposal company has been surveying around a quarter of the site and looking two foot underground to find any more devices or ammunition.

Andrew Jones of Chartland Homes has said the company is doing everything it can to make the site safe and reduce the fears of nearby residents.

Mr Jones said the disposal company is currently working to identify any material and if something of note is found then a full investigation will take place.

Specialist

He said: "We have had a specialist firm on site who have been working for three weeks and have been searching a quarter of the site. It is hard to differentiate what is metal and what is ammunition so they have been going down two foot and scanning the ground. When they have got two foot down they will scan the ground again."

"If we find something we will investigate and we are doing everything we can to make the area safe." Residents are still concerned and contacted Shropshire Council asking for the site to be cleansed and for Chartland to review safety at the site after people were spotted walking across the site at evenings and weekends. In an email to a resident, Tim Rogers, area planning manager for Shropshire Council, said the authority would be writing to the developers.

He said: "I am therefore writing to the developers of the site to advise them of their responsibility in respect of the planning condition, notwithstanding any action that might currently be carried out by other agencies."

Cannabis dens discovered in villages



Police have released this image of one of the cannabis dens and say they will increase patrols

POLICE have discovered two cannabis dens in villages.

Evidence of drug taking has been found on land in St Martins and Gobowen, near Oswestry, used as meeting places for local youths.

Community support officers are urging parents to challenge their children on where they are spending their days and evenings during the summer holidays.

They are also reminding young people that a police warning over

the use of cannabis could scupper their university or job applications, ruining their futures.

In St Martins youths are congregating on wasteland behind the St Martins Institute, known as the Stute, while the Black Bridge in Gobowen – a pedestrian walkway over the railway line – is also being used by young people, Community Support Officer David Hughes said.

He said the Black Bridge had been a problem spot for some years.

"It has a history of youths drinking alcohol there but this is a worrying escalation," he said.

"Evidence of cannabis taking has been found in both places and, in Gobowen, we have been told that youths are walking on the bridge parapet which is extremely dangerous."

The officers are stepping up patrols in the villages and say the actions of the young people are not fair on residents living locally.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Firm looking for taxi drivers

PEOPLE looking for work in Oswestry are being invited to an open day for job opportunities at a taxi firm.

Bosses at Go Carz say they need around 20 more drivers as soon as possible to meet growing demand in the Oswestry area. Cindy Wilday, director of the firm, said it had received great feedback from new customers since opening an office in Oswestry.

The open day will take place at The Wynnstay Hotel in Oswestry tomorrow (Friday) from 10am to 4pm, and anyone interested in driving for Go Carz is invited to attend.

For more information call Gill Pulford on (01743) 454265.

Sweet treat for lovers of movies

OSWESTRY Film Society will be giving away free tea and cake to everyone who attends its last film of the season.

I'll See You In My Dreams will be screened at Oswestry's Kinokulture Cinema.

It will be screened at 7.30pm on Tuesday next week.

Film Society member Michael Hudson, said: "The film is a late life friendship and romance tale that earned rave reviews on its release and will be enjoyed by fans of Finding Your Feet."

He added: "We hope people will be tempted by the tea and cake, and charmed by the film."

Tickets cost £6 and more information is available from oswestryfilmsociety.com.

Inquest told of death tragedy

A WOMAN found dead at her home near Oswestry had taken her own life, a coroner has recorded.

Sheila Marie Sachdave, 49, of Selattyn, had taken an overdose of tablets, an inquest on Tuesday was told. Ms Sachdave was found in the cottage she lived in on July 18. Police who went to the property found empty tablet containers and two notes. Coroner John Ellery said the notes indicated that she wanted to end her life and recorded a verdict of suicide.

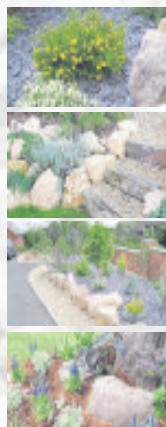
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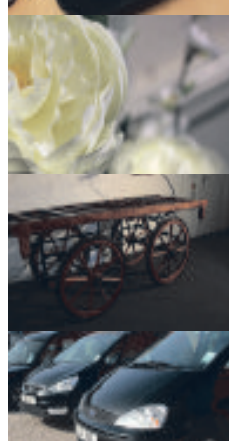
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Di Carrington

Atlantic rower to guest at games

ONE of the all-female team that rowed 3,000 miles across the Atlantic will be the guest of honour at Oswestry Community Games.

Di Carrington, from Pontesbury, will be the special guest at the games on September 23.

The 62-year-old was part of the

all-female trio to take on the Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge, rowing the 3,000 miles from La Gomera in the Canary Islands to Antigua in the Caribbean.

Di, who will be supporting her chosen charity, Relapsing Polychondritis UK, said: "I would be hon-

oured and delighted to be involved."

The games will take place in Cae Glas Park between 11am and 3.45pm, and will see sport, music and dance taking place throughout the day.

In its sixth year, the games will again be conducted by the voice of

David Davies, and the community event has received financial backing from Oswestry Town Council, Oswestry Sports Forum, Wynnstay Hotel, Growth 50 Ltd, Arla Foods, Shropshire Towns and Rural Housing Ltd and Mary Hignett Bequest Fund.

Highways bosses back supermarket road plans

Report by Jonny Drury

PLANS that have been three years in the making to build a supermarket and garden centre on the edge of Oswestry have received the backing of Highways England.

In July, Morrisons, who have a lease on the former Smithfield site on Shrewsbury Road, re-submitted plans for a food store, including a garden centre, a petrol station, car wash and "retail pods".

Earlier plans for a complex including a cinema and shops were scrapped in 2015, however the land is set to be developed after the submission of the new application.

Veteran Jack dies at age 102

ONE of the oldest surviving members of the Shropshire regiment – who went on to be one of the first to land on the D-Day beaches in 1944 – has died at the age of 102.

Jack Bellis, from Southsea, near Wrexham, was serving as a Bren Gun Carrier driver and mechanic when he landed on Sword Beach. He was at that time in the Royal Welch Fusiliers, but during the invasion he fought alongside his old regiment, the King's Shropshire Light Infantry.

After the war Mr Bellis worked at Brymbo Steelworks. He also ran a stall at the indoor market at Powis Hall, Oswestry, for many years with his late wife Gladys. He was awarded one of France's highest medals, the Chevalier in the Ordre National de la Legion d'honneur, in 2016. His daughter Sandra Davies shared the news of his death, describing it as "the end of an era."

And supermarket bosses were given a timely boost this week when Highways England backed the plans for the site and offered no objection to the traffic plan.

Under the new plans, Morrisons is proposing to have a roundabout introduced onto Shrewsbury Road at the entrance to the site, which will be on the current junction with Shrewsbury Road and College Road.

Then there will be a smaller mini-roundabout on the supermarket side with access to a petrol station and access to a large car park and the supermarket at the back end of the site. On the Shropshire Council planning portal, Patrick Thomas, asset manager for Highways England, said the body had no objection to the plans.

A report from architects Whittam Cox has said the new development would have a positive impact on Oswestry. It said: "It is considered that the provision of a new Morrisons store will enhance the retail offer of Oswestry, providing a larger, modern supermarket on an easily accessible, brown-field site."

Tasty treats at the big show



Oswestry chef Tim Roberts passed on culinary advice at the flower show

PEOPLE from the Oswestry and Welshpool areas once again enjoyed all that the Shrewsbury Flower Show had to offer at the weekend.

Although rain and wind hit The Quarry on Friday, the sun shone on Saturday and thousands of people flocked to see the beautiful blooms, magnificent displays and en-

tertainment from big name chefs through to children's entertainers. The show attracts people from across the globe each year, with attendees from as far away as Australia, organisers said. Oswestry businesses also took part in the popular event, including chef Tim Roberts who passed on advice on how to make delicious food.

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Call made for inquiry into council's children's services

Report by Jonny Drury

CALLS have been made for an independent inquiry into systemic problems and failures in an authority's children's services after more stark details were revealed.

It was recently found that Powys County Council knew about serious failings in its children's services, 12 months before a Care Inspectorate Wales report found children had been put at a serious risk of harm.

Charities are boosted by centre

CHARITIES are benefitting from the thousands of visitors arriving at the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry over the summer holidays, bosses have said.

The visitor attraction invites charities to have volunteers stand at the entrance to the venue with collection buckets.

There is a different charity on different days collecting for the good causes.

Chairman of the centre Clive Knowles said: "We do not have an entrance fee or car park fee, however we do ask people to consider a voluntary donation to charity."

He said that the centre had also been involved in supporting the Oswestry Food Bank by asking visitors to donate a tin of food.

Mr Knowles said: "In the summer holidays families who have school age children can find it very difficult.

"If that school lunch and maybe breakfast club is not there it can be hard to find the extra money to ensure the children have a decent meal during the day.

"The food bank can help those families through until September."

Collections on the gate are just one of the ways the centre helps charities.

The venue has staged various events in support of charities.

A report was carried out in July 2016 by Peopletoo, which highlighted serious concerns in the management of cases and care eight youngsters were receiving.

However 12 months later the same failings were highlighted by the CIW.

Now it has been revealed the inspectors in the CIW report were unaware of the findings of the original report.

Council Leader Rosemarie Harris has promised to carry out an investigation, however opposition groups have said enough is enough and a wide ranging independent investigation needs to take place.

Leader of the Lib Dem opposition James Gibson-Watt said: "The council leader and CEO have assured us that the eight children whose cases Peopletoo audited are okay, and that what happened to the report and the actions that followed will now be investigated. This is far from adequate.

"My inquiries with the CIW have revealed that the CSSIW's inspectors were not shown the 2016 Peopletoo report when they inspected Powys in summer 2017.

"I also understand that members of the current council cabinet had sight of it in March this year. Yet it took a Freedom of Information (FOI) request from a council member for it to be released to council members just the other day, and in a redacted form. We need to know not only whether cabinet members saw the report in July 2016, but also what actions current cabinet members took when they became aware of it in March this year and why it was not released to all council members at that time." Last year when the report by the CIW revealed the serious failures from the council, calls for an independent investigation were refused. Cllr Gibson-Watt added: "This July 2016 Peopletoo audit revealed clear, serious and apparently systemic failures in children's services."

Footage shows mountain blaze



This image from North Wales Police shows the impact of the fire

NORTH Wales Police have released video footage of the blaze that has scarred the hillsides overlooking Llangollen.

It shows the huge extent of the fire, including blackened moorland, for miles.

Fire crews have been at the scene over the past few weeks dealing with the fire.

Sightseers, walkers and cyclists have been urged to "keep away from the mountain and stay safe".

The fire crews from across North Wales and Shropshire have been working around the clock to fight and damp down the hillside blaze. It began on the Llantysilio mountain on July 18.

There have been three incidents of the

fire service 4x4 vehicles overturning on the steep hillside as crews try to reach the more inaccessible areas.

None of the firefighters suffered serious injuries. Shropshire fire crews have occasionally stepped in to help as relief crews.

More than 600 acres of land have been damaged in the fires which for a time meant the closure of the popular Ponderosa Cafe on top of the Horseshoe Pass amid fears the fire and smoke could engulf the site.

Natural Resources Wales has said the extent of the damage to wildlife caused by the fire is unprecedented. Nick Thomas, north east operations manager for NRW, said it could take decades for the area to recover.

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JOSEPH'S AMAZING CAMELS

BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

I got a little rattled around the edges when I heard that the consultation into the £300 million health service reorganisation in Shropshire, which affects Powys, was facing a further delay – until I discovered it's just for an extra week.

And that extra week allows the Future Fit and Powys Teaching Health Board time to hold a number of valuable additional consultation meetings – including one in Welshpool.

More delay was the last thing this scheme needed so it's good to know it's only for seven days and the people of Welshpool will have another chance to have their say on just where they think facilities should be housed.

There's two main options on the table and I'm heavily behind the first which gives an Emergency Care site to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Planned Care facilities for the Princess Royal at Telford. Both options see Urgent Care Centres based at both hospitals.

It's clearly the best option for the people of Oswestry, Welshpool and the rest of Mid Wales when you consider how urgent it is for patients to reach hospitals quickly in the event of emergencies.

And the extra meetings will give everyone the chance to voice their opinions.

Don't waste the opportunity to let NHS Future Fit bosses know just how strongly we feel in this area about the importance of the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to us.

There was shocking news this week that no less than 350 front-line council employees in Powys have been subject to physical and verbal assaults in the last three years.

Over half of the incidents took place in schools and that is simply unacceptable behaviour, whether from pupils or parents. The local authority has a big responsibility to protect staff and must ensure their safety at all times.

But it's parents who should be taking the most responsibility and instead of screaming abuse at teachers should be installing more discipline in their children. Too many are banging on the headteacher's door in defence of their "wronged" offspring instead of getting their own houses in order.

No-one working in education should do so under the threat of violence or abuse and while local authorities such as Powys County Council have a duty of care surely the main responsibility lies with parents.



A West Mercia Search and Rescue team in action



Shane and Kirsty Walsh with their children



Dangerously deceptive – the tranquil River Severn

Cold water shock is a real and indiscriminate killer

A dip to cool off can have fatal consequences – I know because I lost my husband. BY KIRSTY WALSH

A COOL dip on a warm day – what's the worst that could happen?

When the weather is warm our rivers, lakes and quarries start to look like a great way to cool off.

Up and down the country people have been taking a dip to get comfortable.

But this year, like every other, lives have been lost to the water, and that sorry fact is entirely preventable.

In summer, shallow water gets warm enough to be pleasant, but deep water remains stony cold and will sap the strength from even the strongest swimmer in seconds.

Cold water shock is real, and it's an indiscriminate killer.

The tragic case of Rhys Evans at Westport Lake is a high-profile reminder of that danger, but the total number of deaths in water this summer is rising week on week.

Lakes and quarries often have deep, cold clouds and currents offshore.

If you were to wade out you'd quickly leave the relative safety of the warm edges and enter the flows where your heart rate will rise, your muscles will tire and swimming will become more difficult with every stroke.

But nobody will likely notice somebody in trouble because drowning is a quiet process.

It's not the splashing and yelling that you may have seen on TV.

It's more often a fading doggy-paddle,



Kirsty Walsh became a water safety ambassador after her husband Shane died

with gulping and, quite quickly, the inability to speak, breathe properly or swim.

This year West Mercia Search and Rescue has been working with the police, fire service, Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Royal Life Saving Society UK to deliver the message about cold-water to the public.

They've developed a free online course which has been taken up by more than 2,000 people across the region, and which has started to gain traction in schools.

It's available to everyone at norriver-deaths.org.uk

It's an easy message to share for families: if you want to take a dip, stay in the shallows.

Don't go in to deep water, and never

jump straight in to open water. The consequences of taking that gasp – which we all know from when we accidentally step in to a cold shower – means you'd potentially inhale water and start the drowning process.

Riverside safety patrols by West Mercia SAR this year in Shrewsbury and Ironbridge have tried to share this message with revellers, who are particularly vulnerable to the allure of the water after a few drinks on a warm night.

My husband was lost to the River Severn last year.

Now I have become a water-safety ambassador, with the aim of spreading the message.

I have been working with the charity since the tragic incident last Septem-

ber. I was struck by the fact that there was a team of volunteers who gave up their time to help search the river, and I credit the team with the early discovery of Shane's body which allowed police divers to recover him swiftly.

The team kept in contact with me after these sad events and helped me to channel my grief into something positive.

Together we launched the campaign and riverside patrols which are now a familiar sight in our night-time economy. At first it was a little strange for all involved.

A family member so closely touched by the team's work had never become involved in direct preventative action before.

But this was quickly replaced by a great feeling of familial support, and I have become a passionate advocate for water safety both to the public and within the team itself.

Since I joined the charity, I have been a regular on patrols in Shrewsbury, and have self-funded talks to local schools and play groups, and attended events in Quarry Park this summer.

The charity is planning on keeping up the patrols for the rest of the year at some of the major events in Shrewsbury.

And it will be looking to push out to other night-time economies next Christmas.

As a small charity, West Mercia SAR is limited by the availability of its operational members, and is looking for No River Death Champions to take the course and present it to their workmates, children and social clubs.

The free download will run on any PC, Mac, or even on a phone, and makes for a potentially life-saving discussion.

For more information on the charity and its work on water safety see west-merciasar.org.uk

WORKING FOR YOU



The Oswestry Show has a long and successful history, having been first held over 150 years ago in 1862. It began after the founding of the Oswestry and District Agricultural Society by the then MP for North Shropshire, John Ormsby-Gore, and 60 local farmers, who decided that grain and root competitions should be held to improve agricultural standards in the area.

The show has expanded in line with the society's aims of higher food quality, increased productivity and better conditions for farm labourers. New classes have been added, allowing farmers to inspect new agricultural techniques and machinery, as well as encouraging them to explore new breeds of livestock and varieties of crops.

Its success continues to this day, with well over 15,000 people from all over the county and across the Welsh border – including many families and children – attending the 133rd show on the first weekend in August. Attendees were treated to an enormous variety of displays and activities.

The late spring and this summer's heatwave have made this a difficult year for farmers, so it was excellent to see the show retaining its greatest strength; it remains firmly a celebration of agriculture, true to the pursuit of farming excellence which was the original objective of its founders.

The showground played host to over 200 trade stands representing everything from local businesses and charities, to vets, sports teams and local schools including Derwen College. I was given the enjoyable but difficult task of judging the Best Agricultural (Non-Machinery) Stand and the Best Machinery Stand. As ever, the standard of competition in both categories was incredibly high, but I was pleased to award First Prize for non-machinery to Morgans of Oswestry, and First Prize for machinery to W & M Agricultural Engineering, also from Oswestry. They were both deserving winners.

The enduring success of the show is testament to the vast amount of effort put in by scores of volunteers. It is a pleasure to salute this year's president, Neil Brogden, and his whole team for their dedication in putting on one of North Shropshire's finest events of the summer. I am sure that their determination will make 2019's event better still, and look forward to seeing the show continue to flourish for years to come.

Owen Paterson
North Shropshire MP

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CAN I STOP MY CHEATING HUSBAND FROM 'LOSING' HIS ASSETS IF I MAKE HIM WAIT FOR A DIVORCE?

Q: My husband has left me for another woman. I am so hurt and angry that I intend to make him wait the mandatory five years without consent to get a divorce. However, a friend has suggested that I may be doing myself a disservice as during those five years he could dispose of his assets and I would miss out in the financial settlement.

A: To deal with financial issues now, you may wish to consider entering into a separation agreement with your husband. This would set out financial arrangements while you are separated. It can cover a wide range of things to include the division of your assets, your obligations to each other during separation and the terms of a final settlement when the divorce takes place at a future date.

When a separation agreement is prepared, both parties need to be open and honest about their circumstances. You both have to agree the terms voluntarily and neither of you are to be put under any duress to enter into the agreement. It is in the interests of both parties to obtain legal advice. The Court is likely to give weight to these agreements in any subsequent divorce if they are entered into properly.

There may be changes to your respective circumstances during the period of separation which would not be disregarded in the divorce when the Court considers a fair and appropriate settlement in all the circumstances of the case if no agreement can be reached between you. If you believe your husband may dispose of his assets to defeat your claims against him, this may prejudice your position both now and in the future. Steps can be taken to protect you. You should seek legal advice from a specialist family lawyer about the options available to you as soon as possible.

Further information relating to this question is available from Alison Peters, a Partner with GHP Legal. For an appointment visit www.ghplegal.com or contact one of our offices: Oswestry 01691 659194, Chirk 01691 777949, Wrexham 01978 291456, Llangollen 01978 860313. We offer free legal diagnostic clinics (no appointment necessary). In Oswestry, Wednesdays 12noon-3pm for Personal Injury, Employment & Family matters. In Wrexham, Mondays 9.30am-12noon for Employment matters, 12noon – 3pm for Personal Injury & Family matters. GHP Legal is authorised and regulated by the SRA 51566, and Lexcel Accredited.



Developers should consider opportunity

I READ with interest the article on Ironbridge power station by Mark Andrews in the Shropshire Star.

I truly hope that the developers will consider the 'once in a lifetime' opportunity that exists, particularly at this stage of the game.

OK, we need more houses, but it is houses at the lower end of the market that are needed, not six figure five bedroom houses, which I suspect would be highly

prized in such an area. With many hundreds of houses and industrial units being threatened, I can't help wondering how much the existing roads by Buildwas Bridge are going to be carved up for another nest of roundabouts. The council comes across as being more excited about having 'one of the leading companies in its field' carrying out the work, rather than for the wonderful chance it has to do something important.

This is a special place, and being in one

of the county's foremost tourist areas, there now exists a chance to do something really special. Extending the railway from Horsehay should be the backbone of what could be achieved for the tourism element of any future plans on this site, with better parking facilities for visitors. A new quay on the river could add to the experience by taking visitors into Ironbridge by boat.

ROGER BIRTWHISTLE
Wrockwardine Wood

Youngsters enjoy life at the livestock market



These youngsters at Oswestry livestock market will be drawing their pensions by now, because the picture is from around 60 years ago. John Powell of Oswestry who emailed this picture in thinks it dates roughly from 1958.

Pothole prize is a potential winner for everybody

IT surely must be time for Shropshire Council to introduce a lottery for the county and give local people a chance to support local charities and projects.

Of course the prizes will need to be very attractive to potential punters and should reflect the dynamic age we live in. After a close consultation with people who know what is going on, Aunt Dolly, Uncle Norbert and myself have come up with the following prizes.

The winning ticket gets every pothole from where they live to their place of work filled in. Special use of a device for a week to turn all traffic lights green. The council should also follow that Great British tradition of selling honours to the highest bidder; there must be plenty of vacant Lord of the Manor titles kicking around.

For royal fans there should be a chance to be royal for a day. This will involve smiling, waving, walking about a bit and getting used to people saying how marvellous you are because you can smile, wave and walk.

PETER STEGGLES
Longnor

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
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shropshirestar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

We need something better than this

SO now both main parties are proposing uncapped increased funding for the NHS. Nothing to do with your health or mine but everything to do with political posturing. We'll be paying more taxes while they continue to borrow billions to waste on HS2 and overseas funding. We've had years of austerity and the deficit has gone up!

The problem is, indoctrinated die-hards are going to carry on voting for these people.

We need something better.

LORENZO COSCO
Randlay

Government is all at sea over its naval priorities

MANY years ago I recall a national newspaper carrying a regular feature entitled 'Believe it or not'. The reader had to decide if a news item was true or false.

This came to mind when reading a recent piece in the Shropshire Star by Lord West of Spithead warning of a post-Brexit crisis because Britain did not have enough vessels to look after its inshore waters.

Why, I wondered, is the government spending many billions of pounds on two giant aircraft carriers and many more billions on US aircraft and weapons systems for these ships?

Are the carriers going to be based off West Hartlepool and Bournemouth piers on coastal protection duties?

No. I suspect they are more likely to be based in far-off waters in support of US wars rather than protecting our coastal interests.

This Government seems to have a serious case of misplaced priorities.

BOB ROSE
Stirchley Park

Brexit 'fact' cannot be properly proven or validated

I AM 78 and I can remember democracy - remember when it was still practised in the UK and remember how we were hoodwinked into joining the anti-democratic Common Market. Hoodwinked by the Establishment, the likes of Patience Wheatcroft, the Brussels Baroness, who issued the following mythical statement of 'fact' which cannot be proven or validated.

Virtually every respected economic analyst reckons a Leave vote would create a downturn in the short and medium term!

By 'respected economic analyst' does she include Cameron, Blair, the Canadian Governor of the Bank of England who got nothing right on the job? Perhaps she meant George Osborne or George Soros who broke the Bank of England and seeks to repeat that shameful act? It cannot be the CBI, the bosses' trade union, yes union; their aim in life is to take care of their members.

Or does she refer to the parasites in the Scottish Independence Party, the majority of the unelected House of Lords or the truck loads of whining Remain MPs - all of whom have predicted that Brexit will be a pigs' ear!

Their self-centred actions have brought utter chaos to the Brexit negotiations and made our island the laughing stock of the world.

There was no justification for their words or actions and their punishment should be swift and final. All should be stripped of pay, perks and pensions, banned from politics and public duty for life and transported to the furthest distance EU member country - starting tomorrow!

BOB WYDELL
Oswestry

Let's go for a realistic deal

THE time has finally come for the Prime Minister to choose and the crisis should finally be upon us, unless she desperately postpones it for yet a few more weeks.

But the choice is not between Brexit and staying in the European Union, simply between a sensible Brexit and a reckless and damaging one.

Surely she knows what the moderate majority wants her to do.

She should worry about them, and the judgement of history, rather than the tantrums of Jacob Rees-Mogg and other Brexit extremists.

If left to their own devices these ideologues would severely damage our manufacturing sector, and our standing in the world.

It is time to put an end to their nonsense, think about jobs and the economy, and reach a realistic deal with the EU.

JOHN GEMMELL
Wem

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Paul Vickers, president of British Model Soldiers Society



Some early lead soldiers on display at the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry



British Hussars around 1890

Model collection at visitor attraction

A NATIONAL collection of model soldiers has arrived in Shropshire to go on permanent exhibition.

More than 40,000 of the small figures, from the early days of lead toy soldiers to today's artistic masterpieces, are to go on display at the British Ironwork Centre near Oswestry.

Volunteers from across the UK recently helped to install the national collection in 20 special viewing cabinets at the popular tourist attraction near Oswestry.

The collection was founded in 1974. The huge collection has had many

Report by Sue Austin

homes over the years including Blenheim Palace.

The pieces cover a whole timeline of history.

The models range from the ancient and medieval worlds through the centuries to the first and second world wars and today's military.

As well as many single figures and small groups the collection includes large battle scenes.

Chairman of the British Ironwork Centre Clive Knowles said he was delighted that the national collection would be housed in Shropshire.

He said the collection would be of interest to many people including young people.

"We wanted to ensure that families and children can see the collection before they go back to school," the boss of the ironwork centre said.

And Mr Knowles added: "It will be the single biggest collection on public view, throughout the UK."

Mr Knowles said the collection would also make a perfect opportunity on which to base a school trip.

Paul Vickers, president of British Model Soldiers Society, was on hand to offer his expertise and took a close look of a model of the Queen on horseback trooping the colour.



Many colourful models are on show



Gordon Highlander in the style of the 1860s

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Music quiz set to take place in town

A MUSIC quiz will take place in the Corn Exchange in Welshpool on Saturday at 7.30pm, doors open 7pm.

Entry is £2.50 per player to include refreshments.

Meanwhile, a cash bingo evening will take place in the Corn Exchange in Welshpool on Thursday next week with eyes down at 7pm, doors open at 6.30pm.

Admission is £1 to include refreshments. Money raised will go towards purchasing a bench to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War.

Traders expected at popular show

A POPULAR toy and train sale that attracts traders from all over the UK is taking place this weekend.

Llangollen Toy and Train Sale is running between 10.30am and 3pm in the town's pavilion on Saturday.

Collectors from all over Wales and England will head to the popular event, which has received so much attention there are already dates booked in for 2019 and 2020. The venue has its own in-house cafe, level and easy access and plenty of free car parking for visitors to the show.

Two held over thefts at estate

THIEVES targeted an industrial estate in a village near Oswestry.

In the early hours of July 27 a Leyland Daf lorry and an orange and blue Hanex digger were stolen from a yard at Bank Top Industrial Estate, St Martins.

Police say the lorry was found by officers in the Newcastle-under-Lyme area and two suspects were detained.



Artist Giancarlo Facchinetti with one of the digital works at the exhibition in Oswestry

Art goes hi-tech for new exhibition

A NUMBER of artists have put together an exhibition on digital technology following work with the Derwen College in Gobowen and the Designs in Mind organisation in Oswestry.

The Qube gallery has an array of displays and exhibitions on throughout the year, and it has just opened an exhibition from artists on digital technology.

Report by Jonny Drury

It has worked alongside the college and mental health charity Designs in Mind, with a number of people producing pieces for the large exhibition.

Charlotte Jackson, from the gallery said: "It is a great exhibition that has been run by a number of artists."

"We show various different exhibitions, some from our own, and then in this case artists rent the exhibition space and it is now open for people to

see. It is nice that we can open the exhibition space up to others and not just our own works."

The gallery has a number of exhibitions coming up, including First World War displays and an arts competition that has attracted people from far and wide.

Charlotte added: "We have a whole host of things taking place, and the gallery has things coming up."

"The art competition has had all the entries in now, they have come from all around the UK."



Nadia Kingsley with an artwork at the exhibition



Artists Nadia Kingsley, Giancarlo Facchinetti and Paul Kieltey



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Ramblers on their travels

THE Welshpool Ramblers' walk on Sunday will be a six-mile circular walk in the Beddgelert area.

The route will lead upwards from Nantmor through ancient woods to Cwm Bychan, with its remains of the area's mining industry. Meet at 9am in the car park by the Welshpool Tourist Information Centre (SY21 7DD; grid ref. SJ 226 076), from where transport will normally be available. Those wishing to go directly to the starting point should meet at the National Trust Car Park at Nantmor (LL55 4YG; grid ref. SH 597 462) ready for a 10.45am start. For further information telephone (01938) 590307.

Festival to take place at weekend

WELSHPOOL Music Festival is taking place on Saturday.

The venues are The Talbot, Fabrizio's Italian Restaurant, The Pheasant, The Bay Tree Vintage Cafe and The Angel with The Wellington providing an open mic event until 7pm followed by karaoke.

A spokesman said: "There will be 33 performances across five venues full of very diverse music, something for every musical taste."

"Most venues will be starting a bit later this year around 3pm with some venues finishing close to midnight."

"Musicians are coming from far afield as Coventry, Stoke and Abergavenny but the majority are all local bands. The festival is run by non-paid volunteers and we are always looking for proactive people to join our steering committee so please get in touch."

Victims 'more confident in reporting of crime'

Report by Lisa O'Brien

A RISE in reports of homophobic hate crime to Dyfed-Powys Police could be due to the introduction of LGB&T liaison officers, the force says.

The latest Home Office figures show there were 35 incidents of homophobic hate crime reported to the police force in 2016/17.

They were incidents where gay, lesbian or bisexual people were abused or attacked due to their identity, rising from 16 in 2015/16.

Dyfed-Powys Police said a general increase in hate crime across all monitored strands has been seen across the country since 2016, particularly around the time of the EU referendum and the terrorist attacks in Manchester and London.

A spokesman for the force said: "The increased reporting is likely to indicate a combination of more confidence in reporting, with improved crime recording and police investigation."

"The rise in reports of homophobic hate crimes in Dyfed-Powys Police during 2016-17, we believe is as a result of increased confidence in reporting these crimes to the police due to the introduction of LGB&T liaison officers in June 2016."

"These officers provide support to LGB&T victims of crime, as well as being a source of advice for investigation teams and specialist departments within the organisation."

New branding for training company



Katy Godsell and Katie George with Emina Redzepovic launch the new branding

AN award-winning training provider has launched a fresh new look with a rebranded company logo and revamped website, which has been designed to support employers and learners all over Wales.

Cambrian Training Company chose the Royal Welsh Show to both unveil its rebrand and launch its new website with the help of some of the employers with which it works.

The well known training company, which has its headquarters in Welshpool and offices in Llanelli, Holyhead, Colwyn Bay and Bwlth Wells, specialises in the delivery of work-based apprenticeships, Jobs Growth Wales and employability opportunities across a range of industries pan-Wales.

Cambrian Training Company is renowned for tailoring training to meet the specific needs of employers and learners.

Launching Cambrian Training Company's new website and rebrand were marketing manager Katy Godsell and marketing assistant Katie George with Emina Redzepovic from Brod: The Danish Bakery.

Council to take on new duties for authority

ANIMAL health and welfare services in Torfaen will be delivered by Powys County Council after the plans were given the go-ahead by both authorities, it has been announced.

Officers from Powys will now undertake animal health and welfare duties within Torfaen County Borough.

Councils in Wales are responsible for enforcing a range of animal health and welfare legislation and this cross boundary arrangement, which meets the Welsh Government's Collaboration Agenda, will ensure that the statutory service continues in Torfaen.

This is the latest collaboration agreement that Powys' Trading Standards Service has entered into after agreeing to undertake the same function in Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council in 2012.

Councillor Fiona Cross, executive member for the environment at Torfaen council, said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with Powys County Council to provide animal health and welfare services. Our colleagues in Powys have a huge wealth of experience working across an expansive rural area, and their expertise will allow us to deliver an excellent service here in Torfaen."

Councillor James Evans, Powys County Council's cabinet member for Trading Standards, said: "Given the size and rural nature of Powys and the volume of work we currently undertake, we have developed one of the leading animal health and welfare services in Wales."

"We are well positioned to carry out this important function."

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12 Anti-slavery policy goes to council chiefs

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, August 16, 2018

A LOCAL authority is set to adopt a modern slavery policy.

Modern slavery has been found to still operate in recent years in Wales and the Dyfed-Powys Police area.

Now Powys County Council cabinet is discussing the idea of adopting a modern slavery policy, which comes on the back of the 2015 national policy, and aims to "ensure the council will ensure that modern slavery and human trafficking reporting and support for victims is main streamed in safeguarding systems and processes".

A report going before cabinet says: "The Modern Slavery Policy adopts an integrated approach bringing together key areas of safeguarding, policy support, human resources, procurement and civil contingencies to ensure that there is no modern slavery or human trafficking in our supply chains or in any part of our business. This policy will apply to all persons working for the council or on its behalf in our capacity including employees at all levels temporary workers, agent's contractors, third party representatives and business community partners. The council will produce an annual statement outlining the approach we will be taking or have taken to make sure that modern slavery or human trafficking is not taking place within our business or supply chain."

70,000 sick notes given by doctors

MORE than 70,000 sick notes are issued by doctors in the region every year, new figures have confirmed.

NHS figures show that doctors from Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group signed 114 fit notes, on average, every day in the last financial year.

Their Telford Clinical Commissioning Group counterparts signed 83 a day over the same period.

In total there were 41,586 sick notes signed in the Shropshire area between April 2017 and March this year, and 30,184 in the Telford area.

The figures are down on the previous 12 months, but the NHS says that a technical error meant the figures for February 2018 were under recorded.

People in work need a fit note, previously called a sick note, if they are off work for more than seven days.

Up to that point they can self-certify that they are unwell.

Across England, 5.3 million fit notes were handed out in the 12 months, the figures show.

The most recent monthly data, for March this year, shows that highest rate of notes given to working age patients was in Halton, Cheshire.

The lowest rate was in Camden, London.

Despite being called fit notes, most of those issued classify people as unfit for work.

This was the case for 94 per cent of the notes.

New head for force lined up

NORTH Wales's new chief constable is likely to be Gulf War veteran, Carl Foulkes.

The force area includes Chirk and the north Shropshire/Wales border.

Its Police and Crime Commissioner Arfon Jones has announced that Mr Foulkes, 47, and originally from Caergwile near Wrexham is his preferred candidate as the region's new Chief Constable.

Gulf War veteran Mr Foulkes's appointment is subject to confirmation by the North Wales Police and Crime Panel, which will take place on September 10.

The Deputy Chief Constable of Merseyside Police started his policing career with British Transport Police in 1993, having previously served in the Royal Navy and seeing active service in the first Gulf War.

His career included a spell with the West Midlands Police as a Detective Chief Inspector in Walsall.

He moved into the Criminal Investigation Department prior to becoming Operations Superintendent in Birmingham and moving on to head Force CID. Mr Foulkes is married with a teenage son.

Father jailed for launching attack on man with dog lead and vacuum cleaner at house

Report by Jordan Reynolds

A FATHER has been jailed for three years after attacking a man with a vacuum, dog lead and boiling pans of food in front of young children.

Todd Oliver Davies, 32, attacked Kevin Antwis after he had reprimanded Davies's daughter over jumping on an air bed.

Mr Antwis's eyes were also gouged before he was strangled, and then Davies began an attack on a woman who had arrived at the house in Meadow Drive, Oswestry, with her son.

Davies, of Epsom Close, Oswestry, pleaded guilty to assault occasioning actual bodily harm, assault by beating and damaging property at Shrewsbury Crown Court on Wednesday last week.

Judge Jonathan Gosling handed Davies a three-year prison sentence, of which he will

serve half, and a five-year restraining order against contacting the woman and Mr Antwis.

Laura Culley, prosecuting, said that Davies went to the home of his late mother on August 24, 2016, where Mr Antwis was putting up an air bed for the children to sleep on as they were having a sleepover.

"Mr Antwis mildly rebuked Mr Davies's daughter for jumping on the bed, before the defendant followed Mr Antwis into the kitchen and started to argue before launching an unprovoked attack," Miss Culley said.

"He started with a head butt before punching multiple times and squeezing his throat.

"He hit him with a vacuum cleaner and poured hot water onto him from pans on the stove. He hit him with a dog chain repeatedly and gouged his eyes."

Miss Culley added: "This is a sustained attack which came to an end when Mr Davies's late mother intervened and got him to the door."

"The female victim had come to bring some clothing for her son and she phoned the police and was on the phone to the police when she was assaulted."

"She was pulled by her hair and he pulled hair out from the front of her head."

"She was pushed to the floor and managed to get herself and her son into her car and lock it."

"The defendant was trying to get into the car and ripped the wing mirror off the car and po-

lice arrived as he threw it to the ground." Police then restrained Davies and had to taser him, according to the prosecution.

Miss Culley said that Mr Antwis still has problems with his sight two years after the injuries, and that Davies caused £600 worth of damage to the female's car.

Andrew Green, on behalf of Davies, said he has since reconciled with his partner and they have two children together.

"There is more to Todd Davies than the events of August 2016 reveal," Mr Green said.

Judge Gosling said: "This assault on Mr Antwis was an extremely violent and sustained incident and your behaviour to be frank was irrational. You then attacked the lady and her car causing damage in the process."

Report by Emily Lloyd

POTHOLES across Shropshire may take even longer to fix under new council plans.

Shropshire Council has revealed proposals that will see repairs for some potholes on its strategic network take seven times longer than the existing official response times.

It said the current "reactive response times" do not support the authority's policy for minimising cost over time and that a longer response will see work carried out "right first time".

The proposals, which are part of a public consultation, come just weeks after it was revealed the highways budget for Shropshire will be slashed by £10 million over the next two years. A report by the highways team says the council has used a "robust risk-based approach" to its highways safety inspections for many years.

It continues: "The categories have been updated to improve consistency from the perspective of the highway user and clarity when compared with national practice.

Reactive

"There are two reactive responses (immediate and urgent) which are to be made or repaired within one day; planned responses can be completed within longer timescales."

Under the new plans potholes on the council's strategic network that are greater than 5cm (2ins) would take up to a week to fix when the current official response time is 24 hours. Potholes on the same routes that are greater than 2.5cm will take 28 days instead of five working days.

Also affected are urban link and local access roads with potholes larger than 10cm deep taking up to seven days to repair rather than the current 24-hour deadline.

Meanwhile, those over 5cm on urban and rural link and urban local access roads will take 28 days rather than five working days.

And potholes over 2.5cm on urban link roads will be repaired on a risk-based response instead of within 20 working days, while potholes over 2.5cm on rural link, and urban and rural local access roads, will be moved to a risk-based response instead of being part of the current programme of works.

A consultation on the plans runs until Thursday next week.

It is available at shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/highways-safety-inspection-review

Nursery's work is praised by inspectors



Staff and children at the Ladybird Nursery celebrate the findings of the two inspections

A VILLAGE nursery has received not one but two good inspections.

The Ladybird Nursery, attached to the Llansantffraid Church in Wales School, was visited by the education inspectors, Estyn, and the Care Inspectorate Wales. They said that the children enjoyed learning. Headteacher of the school and individual responsible for the nurser Meinir Wyn Morris said the nursery was registered for 16 children and was open

every morning. The headteacher said the nursery was thrilled with the conclusion of the inspectors.

"We were delighted with the inspections," she said.

Estyn said that the setting of the nursery provides a good range of interesting learning experiences that met the needs of the children.

"The quality of practitioners' interactions with children is a strong feature," the report

said. Care Inspectorate Wales said: "The children are flourishing and enjoy learning, they fully enjoy their time at the service."

Mrs Morris said having the nursery on site meant there were no problems when children transitioned to school.

She said: "The children use the same building and are just across the corridor from the rest of the children and see staff throughout the day. It is a very easy transition for them."

Timing of interest rate rise questioned by business boss

A SHROPSHIRE business leader has questioned the timing of the Bank of England's decision to raise the interest rate.

Richard Sheehan, chief executive of Shropshire Chamber of Commerce, said he is concerned the hike has come at a time when considerable uncertainty remains over Brexit in the business sector.

The rate has risen by a quarter of one per cent, from 0.5 per cent to 0.75 per cent – the highest level since March 2009.

The move will increase the cost of more than

three-and-a-half million residential mortgages that have variable or tracker rates.

But it will be welcomed by savers, who could see a lift in their interest rates over the coming month.

Mr Sheehan said: "It is not a surprise. It has been mooted for some time and been deferred and deferred and deferred."

"I would question the timing of the decision. It has come at a time when consumer confidence is not great and generally businesses are waiting for definite action around Brexit. This

has just added to the degree of uncertainty. It may be a small rate rise, but it is the psychological impact it can have.

"There is so much going on and this will only add to the uncertainty."

"Consumer spending is one as are wage demands. Employers want their employees to have a good standard of living but they have to maintain a sustainable business. It is a double-edged sword. The proof will be in the pudding and we will have to see how things pan out."

The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee had been expected to raise interest rates in May, but held fire because the economy went through a weak patch at the start of the year – partly because of the harsh weather conditions, dubbed the Beast from the East.

Led by governor Mark Carney, the Bank is now confident that the dip was temporary and that economic growth will recover from the 0.2 per cent rate seen in the first quarter, to 0.4 per cent in the second quarter and maintain that pace later in the year.

Water Bank will help ease pressures

A NEW service designed to help match farmers and growers who urgently need water with neighbouring farm businesses who have a surplus has been launched by the NFU.

The Water Bank follows an appeal by the NFU to the Environment Agency (EA) at the Agricultural Drought Summit for more flexibility in the abstraction licensing system.

The EA has agreed to consider and approve wherever possible fast-track, short-term trades of water to help farmers cope with pressures on food production caused by the unprecedented spell of hot, dry weather.

Water trading will be localised with donors and recipients needing to operate within the same hydrological unit meaning the same river or part of groundwater aquifer.

NFU vice president Stuart Roberts said the new service will help unlock farmers' access to much-needed water to help produce the nation's food.

He said: "The NFU made it abundantly clear at the drought summit that many farming sectors are being impacted by challenges around irrigation and water shortage.

"We emphasised to the EA that there is a narrow window of opportunity for local and rapid decision-making for the remainder of the irrigation season. We're pleased that the EA has taken our concerns on board.

"The launch of the NFU Water Bank as a web-based noticeboard could be of considerable help to some of our members who are quickly running out of water for fruit and vegetable production as they use up their annual abstraction volumes. Livestock who rely on drinking water from abstracted sources are also at risk.

"We will keep looking for solutions that help alleviate the pressures."

Various attractions are lined up for Dairy Day

Report by Jonny Drury

RETURNING for its fifth year, UK Dairy Day will fill the town of Telford on September 12 when it opens its doors for the annual trade event at the International Centre.

With ambition to beat previous visitor records, the UK Dairy Day Team, coordinated by Holstein UK, are in full swing of organisation with the countdown to September on.

Exhibitor trade stand bookings are at full capacity and feature UK and international businesses, sponsorship packages are finalised, and seminar topics are being scheduled to make the show a varied dairy learning experience.

With new features and zones for 2018, the event will offer everything a dairy farmer needs to develop, consolidate, and innovate their farming business ahead of Brexit.

UK Dairy Day brings together all facets of the dairy industry; farmers, students, breeders, geneticists, vets, feed merchants, dairy equipment suppliers and milk buyers – plus professional service providers, charities, and colleges.

Organisers say that for anyone connected to the dairy industry, it's the event to attend this year.

They say it is an opportunity to network, share knowledge, learn and most importantly, do business at a time of year when important decisions need to be made ahead of winter housing.

Crime concerns are flagged up



Farming leaders met policing chiefs for talks

FARMERS' Union of Wales county executive officers from North Wales met with Police and Crime Commissioner Arfon Jones and the Rural Crime Team at the North Wales Police headquarters in Colwyn Bay.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the latest position in respect of policing in rural areas, and the delegation included Alaw Mair Jones, newly appointed county executive officer for Anglesey, who was introduced to the team for the first time. This is an annual liaison meeting held in July each year with an opportunity to raise various issues and to hear updates from the North Wales Rural Crime Team.

The main issues under discussion were livestock and machinery thefts, dog attacks on livestock and the ever increasing concern about cyber crime. Cyber crime as a whole was looked at in detail, and the importance of raising awareness of this amongst the farming community. There was constructive dialogue on how best to deal with such problems and to raise awareness in rural areas.

Reference was made to the fact that rural crime is often underreported, and that in many cases farmers need to speak up about crimes they encounter, so that the Rural Crime Team can help them more effectively and target rural criminality. It was discussed that the majority of thefts on farms are opportunistic, in that thieves see what is available and easy to take.

Brexit 'offers opportunities and risks too'

BREXIT will provide Welsh agriculture and horticulture with both risks and opportunities so farmers and growers, as well as other parts of the supply chain, need to prepare now.

That's according to the AHDB's latest Horizon report 'Exploring the implications of Brexit for agriculture and horticulture in Wales'.

The report, which has been produced in conjunction with Hybu Cig Cymru – Meat Promotion Wales (HCC), explores three main areas surrounding Brexit – international trade, access to EU migrant labour and agricultural support.

It identifies areas where Wales has both higher and lower exposure to Brexit challenges, when compared to other parts of the UK.

And with a toolkit included, farmers and growers can find out if their business is Brexit ready and explore the many resources – including those from AHDB and Farming Connect – to help them prepare for the future.

AHDB head of strategic insight David Swales said: "For some sectors, Brexit presents a number of opportunities, while other parts of the industry face some potential challenges when we leave the EU.

"While we do not know all the details, we would rather farmers and growers start to prepare now based on the information we have at present. We will be updating our report as more information becomes available, but this latest Horizon document allows industry to avoid the wait-and-see approach, which we believe is high risk." In the report, AHDB looks at the importance of a UK/EU trade deal which supports the long-term interests of Welsh food and drink – with the EU still the largest importer of food and drink exports from Wales.

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Application is lodged for new shooting range

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, August 16, 2018

AN application to create a shooting range has been lodged.

The application relates to land at Llanynog, near Oswestry, with the applicants wanting to change the land to mixed use, to provide a simulated clay shooting facility.

It has been submitted to Powys County Council by Robert Jones and is expected to be decided on later this year.

The new facility is set to create two full-time roles and four part-time jobs according to the planning application.

On the Powys County Council planning portal, objections have been submitted with one local resident saying there would be a noise impact on the village and surrounding area. An increase in the amount of traffic is also another concern mentioned by residents.

The council's highways department has also said that the application should be refused.

It cited a number of reasons, including that passing bays should be introduced on a road near to the land. It also says the plan fails to show how parking will be provided.

A previous application had been made to the council in 2017, and during that process the highways department had made recommendations. However, in the latest application, highways officers said those issues had not been addressed.

Trench will be attraction at weekend

A MAJOR attraction as part of this year's Welshpool 1940s Weekend will be the Great War Trench Experience.

Set in a 40 foot trailer, the trench was built by professional set designer Michael Whiteley and with input from a theatrical lighting company and an historian.

This above-ground trench evokes the sights and sounds of life on the Western Front. Part of the educational team is experienced re-enactor/educator Bradley Cooper who helps bring the trench to life for visitors and students alike with story-telling and drills.

The public are invited to enter the trench and look in on the officers' dugout, where the commanders are discussing strategies over a glass of the local tippie. They can creep along the trench or hop up and look over the top – but don't disturb the sleeping soldier hidden away in his bunk.

The War and Peace Great War Trench Experience also includes six 8x4 boards charting the course of the Great War giving plenty of interesting information and facts on this important conflict.

The trench experience is the organisers tribute to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of First World War, and will be open to the public on the Sunday of the 40s weekend, which takes place from September 28 to 30.

Details of all the weekend's attractions and activities can be found on Facebook at Welshpool Forties Weekend or www.welshpool1940sweekend.co.uk

Gin lovers in for tasty treat at pub

GIN lovers will have the chance to try a selection of gins from around the world in an 11-day festival at Oswestry's The Wilfred Owen.

The pub, in Willow Street, Oswestry, will be serving gins from Japan, Portugal, Spain, Germany and Italy, as well as gins produced in the UK.

The festival will run from today (Friday) until August 27.

There will be numerous award-winning gins among the selection as well as a choice of flavoured gins.

The Wilfred Owen manager Stephen Perry said: "The majority of gins in the festival have not been available in the pub beforehand and I am looking forward to serving them."

"The festival promises to be great fun and I am certain that our customers will enjoy trying the superb range of gins that we have on offer."

The gins available will range in price from £2.70 to £4.20 and include a free mixer.

Tasting notes on all of the gins will be available in the pub.

Three men banned from road and fined after caught speeding on 'Evo Triangle'

Report by David Banner

THREE young men accused of reaching up to 117mph on country roads were each fined £2,000.

The trio – two of the defendants serving in the RAF – were told by a judge at Mold Crown Court: "Each of you played an equal part in some reckless, dangerous and inconsiderate driving at the 'Evo Triangle'."

"People are attracted to that area to drive at high speeds in part because of footage on the internet encouraging people to do so."

Recorder Gregory Bull QC said Lewis Gething, of Connah's Quay, Flintshire, Jak Kitchener, of Rushton, Blackburn, and Alexander Smith, of Llanforda Mead, Oswestry, all 22 and of previous good character, thought it would be fun to drive as fast as they could. But the inter-

net was their downfall after dashcam footage was uploaded to YouTube – and it was seen by police.

The defendants, who had been driving BMW and Kia cars, admitted dangerous driving on the roads near Cerrigydrudion.

Recorder Bull told them: "You were a danger to other potential road users."

Each defendant was banned from driving for two years with extended tests ordered and must pay £1,476 costs.

The judge said the sentence should be "harsh" to punish the trio and discourage other young men from similar behaviour.

Prosecuting counsel Sion ap Mihangel said the "Evo Triangle" had a number of turns and could be challenging.

There were obvious risks to other road users as the men used public roads as a "racetrack" – cutting corners and crossing central white lines.

Smith's barrister Umar Shahzad said he was a senior technician and due to go to Afghanistan at the end of the month. The defendant was remorseful.

Maria Brennan, defending, said Kitchener and Smith would also be punished by the RAF.

Recorder Bull said the men were of "impeccable" character.

He said: "They are stupid, immature young men who thought they would get a thrill out of

driving at excessive speeds in the way they did. They are not likely to repeat it."

North Wales Police said the investigation commenced in July 2017 after footage was posted on YouTube by Jak Kitchener showing the trio driving at high speeds around the route, which comprises the A5, the B4501 and the A543 in the Cerrigydrudion and Pentrefoelas areas.

Sergeant Nicola Collins from Go Safe said: "We investigated the footage, which clearly shows very dangerous and irresponsible driving."

"We are fully aware of the concerns surrounding speeding vehicles travelling along the Evo Triangle route. It is an area which is regularly policed."

Report by Emily Lloyd

A SHAKE-UP of emergency health-care is already attracting the next generation of doctors to Shropshire, say chiefs.

Tom Jones, clinical programme manager at the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals (SaTH) Trust, said a recruitment improvement has been seen since the £312 million funding for the Future Fit scheme was confirmed in March.

Health bosses have previously said the county struggles to recruit because doctors are attracted to larger and specialised hospitals such as Wolverhampton and Stoke.

The programme, which is currently up for consultation, will look to base emergency care on one hospital site and planned care on the other.

Mr Jones said: "It will take six or seven years for this to come to fruition, but doctors are already coming to us."

Difficulties

"We went five years without being able to recruit consultants to the emergency department."

He explained that in particular the shortage of staff had led to difficulties in recruiting middle grade doctors, who are responsible for the emergency department, as other hospitals could offer "better rotas".

He continued: "Doctors were pledging their futures elsewhere."

"But since our announcement we are recruiting the next generation of doctors, so it is a very positive sign."

Dr Simon Freeman, accountable officer for Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, said SaTH had been "struggling" with recruitment.

He added: "It is really struggling because we don't have adequate staffing."

"It is a problem."

He said: "National guidelines say there should be 20 consultants across both hospital emergency departments, but the real figure is more like 12."

The trust meeting was also given an outline of how long the Future Fit programme was likely to take after the consultation ends on September 11.

Mr Jones explained the tendering process would take place over 2019/20, while the building work would take up to five years, meaning the emergency department would open in 2024/25.

Vehicles steaming in for big holiday rally



The steam launch Graculus will be at this year's Steam Engine Rally in support of The Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust

AMONG the steam engines, vintage vehicles and tanks there will be something out of the ordinary at this year's Steam Engine Rally set to take place on the August Bank Holiday weekend.

The Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust has secured the support of Paul, Joan and Amy Miller who are bringing their steam launch 'Graculus' from Aberystwyth, to the rally, which is being held at Onslow Park, near

Shrewsbury. On her trailer she's 21ft 10ins long. The Restore the Montgomery Canal appeal is run by a group comprising members of the Montgomery Waterway Restoration Trust, Friends of the Montgomery Canal, Shropshire Union Canal Society and Shrewsbury & North Wales branch of the Inland Waterways Association.

The appeal is raising funds for the next stages of restoration which will follow comple-

tion of the current Heritage Lottery Fund supported restoration to Crickheath Wharf.

Shrewsbury Steam Rally will showcase more than 1,000 exciting exhibits and the diverse range of attractions will include the spectacle in the main arena of working steam engines, and beautifully preserved classic vehicles from yesteryear.

Full information is available from shrewsburysteamrally.co.uk.

Public asked what issue committee should look at

A NEW poll will ask people in Wales what issue they think a National Assembly committee should be examining.

Following on from a previous successful survey, which resulted in an inquiry into 'funding for and access to music education', the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee is once again asking for people to cast their vote.

The committee has chosen seven subjects taken from suggestions made during a public consultation in 2016 and other issues which

have come to light during this Assembly. The poll will be conducted over the summer with the winner one of three subjects the committee hopes to look at later this year.

The topics to choose from are literature in Wales; teaching of Welsh history, culture and heritage in schools, community involvement in protecting the heritage of Wales, supporting traditional and unique Welsh art forms, improving diversity in provision and uptake of arts and culture in Wales, using the arts to improve health and wellbeing; and Welsh in the

digital world. The chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee, Bethan Sayed AM, said: "At the beginning of this Assembly, we asked people to democratically choose one of the subjects that the committee should look into."

"We held an open public poll in which we received over 2,600 responses. People voted and they decided that we should hold an inquiry into Music Education."

"We published our report in June and we've made a range of, I think, quite strong recom-

mendations to the Welsh Government. In the autumn we're going to be starting three new inquiries. One of these will again be chosen by an open democratic process where people can vote for their choice of one of seven possible inquiries."

"We'll also be asking the public to suggest other areas for the Committee to look at over the longer term."

People can vote, either online, or via paper ballots in the Senedd.

The poll will close on October 8.

Authority urged to celebrate the good work it does

MORE needs to be done to celebrate Shropshire's achievements, according to the county council's leader.

Councillor Peter Nutting urged members and officers to celebrate together – and to tell the public about the good work the unitary authority is doing.

Celebrating successes was one of the 11 recommendations that came out of a Corporate Peer Challenge.

The exercise saw councillors and officers from other authorities invited to review Shrop-

shire Council's performance earlier in the year. Councillor Nutting said: "They are saying we are doing pretty well.

"They have pointed out negatives, like some of the savings are high risk, and we appreciate the challenges, but we have aspirations in what we want to do sometimes. But the last one is what is important to this council – we need to celebrate our successes, which is something we have not been good at doing.

"We have a good council. What have had our challenges but we do pretty well and we don't

celebrate our success and don't tell the public about what we are doing well. We are not selling ourselves."

But Labour leader Alan Mosley pointed out "major criticisms" within the recommendations, including the need for an implementation plan to ensure savings are achieved and a lack of communication.

He continued: "This council has already saved £198 million, that means cuts from expenditure and, whatever fine gloss you put on it, we can all see it.

"Then there is still £106m that needs to be saved over the next five years. It goes to show that in the current plan there is a massive amount of risk in what is proposed."

Councillor Hannah Fraser, of the Liberal Democrats, added the necessity for a "whole council approach" in order to make Shropshire "a great place to live and work".

But she also criticised a number of areas that she said must be addressed, including poor broadband, issues with the road network, and improving pedestrian safety.

Cheers! Lager wins big orders



Wrexham Lager managing director Mark Roberts with Donna Hughes, of Cadwyn Llwyd, at the brewery in Wrexham

AN iconic beer that was served on the ill-fated Titanic has landed its biggest ever export orders – with major deals in China and France.

Wrexham Lager, which itself sank in 2002, has been resurrected and says it owes some of its success to the Llangollen Food Festival.

The company will be making a triumphant return to the annual festival this autumn after securing the two international contracts.

China is currently the world's largest market for lager, overtaking both Germany and the US, and the Wrexham-based firm hopes foreign interest will lead to new jobs for local people.

Office manager Nic Gaffey said: "The French contract is with a wholesaler which supplies more than 3,000 supermarkets and deli shops. It's a big order for us and hopefully once the bottles go out they'll be well-received and the supplier will look to

re-order in bigger volumes. We're hoping for a four-six week turnaround.

"It's a similar story in Hong Kong where the wholesaler has a licence to distribute alcoholic drink across China.

"The bottles will be sold across China in high-end specialist drink shops selling premium spirits and lager.

"There's a very strong market for high-end lager and spirits in China and from there we're hoping to get more orders."

To toast its success, Wrexham Lager is taking its purpose-built formal bar to Llangollen Food Festival and will serve a variety of soft drinks and spirits as well as Wrexham Lager in draught and bottles.

This year Llangollen Food Festival will be held on October 13 and 14, with thousands of food lovers expected from far and wide.

It's been named as one of the Top 10 food festivals in the UK by the Independent and Daily Telegraph newspapers.

Support for armed forces is recognised

OSWESTRY Orthopaedic Hospital has been recognised for its outstanding support of its armed forces staff by receiving the prestigious Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Award 2018 from the Ministry of Defence.

The organisation is one of just 50 winners this year to receive the award, given to organisations who have signed the Armed Forces Covenant and have demonstrated outstanding support for those who serve and have served in the armed forces.

Now in its fifth year, the MOD's Employer Recognition Scheme Gold Awards represents their highest badge of honour available to those that employ and support those who serve, veterans, and their families.

This award is the latest recognition for Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital, which was presented with a Silver Award in 2016.

The hospital trust also signed up to the Armed Forces Covenant in August last year.

Mark Brandreth, chief executive at the hospital, said: "We are delighted to be one of just 10 NHS organisations to be presented with this prestigious and significant award in the latest round.

"Those who are reservists among our staff are

Report by Jonny Drury

given the time to train and serve their country, and we reap the benefits from the skills they gain while on military service, which are then brought back and put to good use in helping us with our aspiration to deliver world class patient care.

"We recognise the sacrifices they make to combine a civilian and military life and career, and are proud to do all we can to support them."

He added: "RJAH is an organisation that values its armed forces staff and patients.

"We already run a thriving veterans' service, and this year has also seen us launch a £1.5 million fundraising campaign to build the UK's first dedicated Veterans' Orthopaedic Centre."

The Minister for Defence People and Veterans, Tobias Ellwood, said: "The breadth and diversity of this year's winners shows how business support for the armed forces continues to flourish.

"Their commitment is a testament to the fantastic contribution our serving personnel, veterans and their families can make to any organisation."

"We all have a role to play in ensuring that the Armed Forces community is not disadvantaged by service, and each of these employers is a setting an example as meaningful advocates for those protecting the nation."

Rotary club backs Frankie in trip to Scout jamboree in US

PRESIDENT Cath Baldry from Oswestry Cambrian Rotary Club has presented a cheque to Frankie Stevenson from the Shropshire County Scouts to help her on her way to a global celebration next year.

Frankie will attend the 2019, 24th World Scout Jamboree in West Virginia, USA in July and August.

Frankie has raised £1,000 herself already from cake making and other fundraising activities towards her required target of £3,000.

That figure includes a small amount to help two Scouts from the poorer countries to attend. She has another £2,000 to find.

If any other companies would like to help her in a small way then they can contact Cambrian

Rotary. For the first time, a world jamboree will be hosted by three national Scout organisations – the Scouts Canada, Asociacion de Scouts de Mexico and the Boy Scouts of America.

These three distinct cultures will join together to host the world Scouting community in a celebration of cultural exchange, mutual understanding, peace and friendship.

Cath Baldry said: "It was a pleasure to help Frankie from our Christmas sleigh street collections.

"She will learn so much from this sort of experience and could well shape the rest of her life.

"Scouting and Guiding are great youth organisations and youth service and peace are some of the main planks for rotary, so

it was great to help and we look forward to hearing all about it on her return."

The rotary club has issued an invitation to people to join the group.

Mike Lade from the organisation said: "If you are interested in joining our progressive club then Oswestry Cambrian Rotary is ready to welcome men and women from the local community. You don't have to be in business or retired.

"We just need people who want to help in the community and have a lot of enjoyment in working alongside like-minded people.

"We meet informally at The Wynnstay Hotel, Church Street, Oswestry on Thursday evenings."

AM calls for the reform of business rates

A POLITICIAN has called for business rates in the tourism sector in Wales to be reformed.

Questioning the Welsh Government's cabinet secretary for finance, Montgomeryshire Assembly Member Russell George has argued business rates for holiday let businesses need urgent reform.

The present position means that some holiday let businesses receive no business rate relief at all, putting them at a disadvantage. Mr George is now calling for reform to ensure that the small holiday cottage sector is supported and encouraged to grow, so that it can survive and remain competitive in a sector which is becoming overcrowded with organisations such as Airbnb and other major online booking sites entering the market.

Mr George said: "I would like the Welsh Government to investigate how small business rate relief in the tourism sector can be reformed to support the small holiday cottage sector.

"Currently, a business with a cluster of cottages at a single location can receive no rate relief, whereas a second home owner with a number of online bookings or buy-to-let investments for example pays less tax. This can't be right and is effectively a loophole that should be closed. Many of these cottages are genuine businesses who employ local people and use local services; have converted obsolete buildings; and provide additional facilities which enhance the quality of accommodation in areas such as Montgomeryshire."

Exhibition marks final days of war

AN exhibition is marking the final days of the First World War and the renowned Oswestry-born poet Wilfred Owen.

An Undertaking is an Arts Council England-funded exhibition.

It features sculpture, sound, video and print artworks throughout St Chad's Church in Shrewsbury to recognise those involved in the First World War.

The exhibition comprises work by re-collect artist group members Julie Edwards, Jill Impey, Jacqui Dodds and Keith Ashford.

The exhibition has been created specifically for St Chad's – reflecting the artists' response to the historic Grade I listed church.

Mary Brotherton, churchwarden of St Chad's, said: "It is important for the wider community to remember the events of World War One.

"This exhibition at St Chad's will give us all the opportunity to pause and reflect."

The exhibition continues until September 30.

Entry to the exhibition is free.

Officers to help pollution fight

NATURAL Resources Wales (NRW) has appointed eight new agricultural officers as part of its ongoing work to tackle agricultural pollution.

The new officers will work with farmers across Wales, giving advice on how to prevent pollution and comply with the standards as well as sharing best practice.

They will also be making sure that farmers are complying with the regulations. NRW has been working with partners to deliver a range of projects to reduce farm pollution and the new officers will work with other organisations to coordinate these anti-pollution initiatives.

The partners include the farming unions, Dwr Cymru catchment team, Afonnydd Cymru catchment officers and Farming and Forestry Connect.

Zoe Henderson, NRW board member and chair of the group, said: "By working together – as regulators, farming unions, customers and fishermen – we understand each other better.

"This means that we can find ideas and solutions that will help address agricultural pollution issues in the long-term."

In April, the group provided the cabinet secretary for energy, planning and rural affairs a progress report and recommendations on how to improve water quality.

Sky lanterns banned on council property

WHILE sky lanterns may look impressive, they pose a serious fire risk to animals and the countryside, according to Shropshire Council.

Members have now voted unanimously to ban the use of sky lanterns on council-owned or managed property.

The decision was made at a meeting of the full council. It comes following a motion from Councillor Dan Morris, for Burnell, who branded them a "serious hazard" to property, the environment and animals.

He is also urging parliament to use its powers to ban their use across England.

"After the flame has been extinguished it falls to earth and

can take decades to degrade," he said. "And at a time when we have seen little rain, it's easy to see why they are such a fire threat.

"Even in winter they are a risk because they can so easily be blown into a barn or property.

"I have seen many comments urging Shropshire Council to ban them.

"We should also be putting pressure on the government to ban them outright."

Shropshire is the latest in a long line of councils to make the decision to ban sky lanterns on their property.

Councillor Kevin Pardy, for Sundorne, said he had dealt with

a number of fires started by Chinese lanterns in the last few years.

He added: "They're not just a problem in the countryside, but in towns too. They are a menace to cars, barns and especially houses with thatched roofs."

The RSPCA and National Farmers' Union of England and Wales have long campaigned for a ban.

In Shropshire, a campaign was started by farmers in Shropshire to highlight the dangers of lanterns as far back as 2013.

It came after a lantern caused a blaze at a West Midland recycling plant in Smethwick, one of the largest ever in seen in the region, in which 10 firefighters were injured.

16 Work of Qube organisation is spelt out

THE incredible amount of work Oswestry's Qube organisation get involved with was spelt out to members of the town's 41 Club at its last monthly meeting at Sweeney Hall Hotel.

Kim Thompson-Lawrence took an hour explaining the number of things the charity organisation got involved with – explaining that it is called 'Qube' to highlight its six sided main principles, including a cheap transport system.

This supports people who are rurally isolated and 12,717 journeys were carried out last year alone. It also organises a Tuesday social club, day trips out, art classes, has 120 in a savings club and club members were introduced to the historic Oswestry welcoming phrase of 'A Bist U'.

Kim Thompson- Lawrence was thanked by club member David Parry-Jones who called it eye-opening to learn of the multitude of activities Qube got involved in. And he added that to learn the organisation was only in Oswestry and was totally supported by grants and donations, made it even more breathtaking.

Otter-ly great idea helping out wildlife

THEY are one of the most elusive creatures in Britain, rarely spotted on the rivers and streams.

But now the otter is making a comeback in the county thanks to the hard work of Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

A number of new otter holts have been built along the River Severn and its tributaries and they are enticing otters back to the area to breed and live.

The latest holt to be made by the trust and its partner SP Energy Networks is at a quiet waterside location near to Wem.

Constructed of logs and twigs, the holt is designed to bring in otters who may use it either to breed or to shelter from the weather.

John Hughes from Shropshire Wildlife Trust said: "Otters are incredibly important to us environmentally as they are a very good indication of the health of our rivers and waterways.

"The otter population is doing well and is one of the real success stories.

"They were on the brink of extinction because of pollution and hunting.

"Pollution was finding its way in to the rivers, into the fish and poisoning the otters.

"Otters are a sign of a really healthy fish population and that it is a very healthy river.

"The Otter Project has been running for around 18 months.

"We have tried to find ways to support the resident otter population.

"Sometimes we use drainage pipes to build the holts, other times we use large logs, branches and twigs.

"Otters are always looking for somewhere close to the banks of the river so these are ideal.

"Otters are tremendously important for the amount of wildlife, they are keeping rivers in a good condition and this is a wonderful way of keeping the countryside in a great condition too."

Mr Hughes added: "We take opportunities where we can to put holts in where we can and then they will go on to build more holts of their own.

"Because they may not have been around for some time we would like to give them a helping hand."

Change at the top at rotary club

A ROTARY club in Oswestry has had a change at the top.

At its latest meeting, Borderland Rotary saw Geoff Barre take over the presidency from Sherie Soper who has enjoyed a successful term with the Oswestry Fireworks last November followed by the Christmas Parade highlights.

It was also an opportunity to present the Paul Harris Fellowship award to two members.

Harry Richardson and Paul Evison are both long term members who have served the club tirelessly for all of this century and quite a bit more.

Police commissioner gives his support to new drive to prevent deaths in rivers

A DRIVE to stop people dying in Shropshire's rivers has become the focus of a campaign backed by West Mercia's police and crime commissioner.

John Campion said there were too many avoidable water deaths across the West Mercia region.

He has pledged his commitment to work with the West Mercia Search and Rescue (WMSAR) charity to stop deaths in rivers.

WMSAR is partially funded through a PCC grant. It consists entirely of volunteers, who are regularly called to assist in water recoveries.

They launched the Home and Dry Campaign, with the backing of the charity's ambassador, Kirsty Walsh, who was widowed with two children when her young husband drowned. The

Report by Mat Growcott

charity has created a water safety course suitable for all ages, which includes information on the dangers of water and how to rescue someone in trouble.

The course is available online or as an offline version, which can be delivered to schools and colleges.

Volunteers have also been carrying out river safety patrols at stretches of the river near to pubs and clubs on busy evenings.

Mr Campion paid tribute to Mrs Walsh's efforts to raise awareness of the potential dangers and said they would continue to work on preventing any future deaths in the rivers.

He said: "There are too many avoidable water deaths across West Mercia.

"I am committed to working with WMSAR to give our communities information and advice, which will keep them safe.

"Accidental drownings pull resources from our emergency and volunteer services.

"The advice is simple – steer clear of open water.

"The commendable work of volunteers and the charity's ambassador Kirsty Walsh has brought this important issue to light, and it's important we build this awareness to have no more river deaths."

Andy MacAuley, chairman of West Mercia Search and Rescue, said the online course had proved popular and that he hoped its advice

could save people's lives. He said: "West Mercia SAR's crews train hard to stay safe around water. We wanted to push some of the key life-saving tips, which anyone can use, to the public. Thousands of people have completed our free online course, and we hope that this could save lives in the period before our colleagues from fire and rescue are able to get units to an incident.

"Basic rescue techniques and practical advice on the unseen dangers that water can hide are packaged up in to a 30-minute course which we think that anyone who lives, plays or works near the water could get involved with."

For further information on the Home and Dry Campaign, go to the website westmerciasar.org.uk/homeanddry

Highways experts backing venue's planning application

Report by Emily Lloyd

HIGHWAYS experts have given their backing for a retrospective planning application at the British Ironwork Centre on the outskirts of Oswestry.

But the tourist attraction faces a series of stringent conditions if it wishes to continue.

These include starting work within the next 12 months on improving its entrance and exit, and providing a plan for managing vehicle movements during events.

Robert Jaffier, asset and resource manager, said: "The form of improvement to the access has been proposed as part of the application and we can confirm that we agree this is suitable in traffic and engineering terms to manage the daily levels of traffic anticipated to arise.

"This scheme is necessary due to the volume of traffic associated with the development which have implications for the continued safe and efficient operation of the A5 trunk road. The proposed access junction mitigation measures therefore should be implemented as soon as practicably possible.

Mitigation

"We note that management of parking on-site and the avoidance of off-site parking on the A5 trunk road will be necessary to support the physical mitigation measures proposed by the applicant to ensure the safe operation of the A5.

"We note however that beyond the typical day-to-day operation of the site that events at the British Ironwork Centre are a common feature of its operation. Events are likely to result in higher than typically development traffic flows utilising the site access.

"Our review of the event schedule for the British Ironwork Centre, as displayed on their website, notes several music, children's and other events which are likely to prove to be popular. Where the traffic implications of such events may be significant then these should be managed to ensure vehicular traffic can safely access and egress the site via the A5.

"We therefore recommend the applicant agree an event management plan."

The application submitted in June is seeking permission for how the centre uses its existing buildings as a rural enterprise and land as a sculpture park and for car parking.

It also features a revised entrance and exit with the creation of a visibility play. A decision on the application is expected from Shropshire Council planning officers by October 15.

Fearsome and fascinating visitor at airport



Photographer Ian Francis took this photo when an Apache touched down at Welshpool airport for emergency repairs

IT'S one of the most respected and feared military vehicles on the planet – and this £25 million Apache touched down in Mid Wales to the delight of enthusiasts.

The Boeing AH-64 Apache attack helicopter, based at RAF Valley on Anglesey, landed at Welshpool airport for emergency repairs on Friday after it had been forced to make another emergency landing the previous day during exercises near Trawsfynydd in North Wales.

It had been patched up overnight and took off again, but it is thought that more problems were reported mid-flight, forcing it to land at the airfield in Mid Wales. With a café now open alongside the runway it did not take long for pictures to start appearing on social media and local amateur photographer, Ian Francis, was close by to take the images.

"I call in to the airport as I'm an amateur photographer," he said.

"It's always worth the stop-off as you never know what you might find.

"The Fuel Stop Café has a great viewing area and it's on my way home."

Twitter users reported that the crew were all friendly and even gave them an introduction to the helicopter and its capabilities.

Apache helicopters are designed to hunt and destroy tanks and can operate in all weathers at any time of the day.

Energy park work at beauty spot to begin soon

WORK to install 2,500 solar panels in a beauty spot on the Shropshire/Powys border is set to begin later this year.

Back in February both Shropshire and Powys County Councils granted permission for different parts of the site at Rhydycroesau, near the old Oswestry racecourse.

The application for the Cefn Y Maes Community Renewable Energy Park Ltd ran for two years and gathered many objectors before the plans were passed.

Now a spokesman for the company behind

the build has confirmed that the project is progressing "with an intention to commence construction later this year".

The application was a controversial one, with the access for the site being in Shropshire and the actual energy park being in Powys.

Host

A host of public meetings took place when a wind turbine was due to be included in the application.

However following objections the turbine

was taken out of the plans, and the green light was given by both councils in February.

Also at previous meetings, residents had been concerned that around 1,300 vehicles would be accessing the site as part of the construction.

Oswestry Parish Councillor Rob Milton has previously said that renewable energy is something that is needed, but residents were concerned about access to the site.

They are worried that many HGVs will be going over the Racecourse, and from the other direction from Llangynog.

He hopes developers can take locals concerns into consideration and keep disruption to a minimum.

The application is for the installation of ground mounted photovoltaic solar array, two energy storage facilities, a new access track, a temporary compound, underground cabling and associated works.

Engena, which is behind the development, has said the energy park would have a lifespan of 30 years, and will produce enough electricity for more than 550 homes.

Online survey wants to give every business a voice

AN ONLINE survey has been launched to give every business across the region a voice in its economic development.

The Marches LEP – the body responsible for driving growth across Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin – says it wants as many businesses as possible to have their say as it maps out its vision for the future of the region.

The LEP – which has helped attract £105 million of Government funding – has launched a comprehensive consultation over its new

Strategic Economic Plan (SEP). It has already held a series of meetings with business leaders and has now launched the survey to ensure it gathers as many opinions as possible.

Marches LEP chairman Graham Wynn said the views of business were being put at the heart of the consultation process.

He said: “Against the backdrop of the Government’s Industrial Strategy, LEPs have been tasked with developing updated plans to drive economic growth, raise productivity and create more prosperous communities.

“To make sure we are concentrating on the right things, we’re updating our evidence base and our Strategic Economic Plan so that we have a clear view of issues affecting the Marches economy.

“For this to be as successful as possible we need the input of as many businesses as we can reach. It is vital we build up a comprehensive picture of the challenges facing business, the barriers to growth and the opportunities which lie ahead. This survey is an integral part of that process because it will let us know what’s

affecting organisations of all shapes and sizes across the region and their views on economic growth.” The survey is being supported with a wide-ranging social media conversation, based around the hashtag #MarchesforGrowth, he added. Consultants Metro Dynamics have helped draw up the survey, which aims to provide a detailed analysis of the Marches economy as it stands and pinpoint the key areas which will help the region sustain and develop growth.

Visit mlep.co.uk/survey

No extra strain¹⁷ reported after number move

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, August 16, 2018

NO extra strain has been put on Shropshire’s A&E departments or ambulance services since the county’s Shropdoc telephone service was replaced by NHS 111, health bosses say.

Shropshire made the switch last month, but some feared it would lead to worse care for people and added pressure on services.

But health commissioners claim this has not been the case and there has been no noticeable impact. Dr Julian Povey, chairman of Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, said: “We are not seeing any real impact on A&E or ambulance figures. Most ambulances are called by people dialling 999. Most attendances in A&E are from people turning up at the door. I’ve not had any feedback about any problems or challenges.” Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin were the only areas left in England last month which had not already made the change to fully integrate services so that patients access urgent care services, including out-of-hours, via the 111 phone number. The original plan was to move to the NHS 111 number in April, but there was a delay to ensure Welsh patients registered with English practices accessed the right number. They will continue to use the Shropdoc number to access out-of-hours GP services until Powys gets the Welsh 111 later this year.

Youngsters to enjoy all the fun of circus

HUNDREDS of disadvantaged youngsters will be able to enjoy the thrills and spills of the circus free of charge in Shropshire this autumn.

Circus Starr, a circus company which brings the drama of the big top to youngsters who might not otherwise be able to experience it, is offering 1,000 tickets to youngsters and their carers when it comes to Shrewsbury in the autumn.

Circus Starr is putting on two shows in the town for youngsters who are often excluded from these kind of events because of their needs and circumstances.

This can include youngsters from disadvantaged backgrounds or who suffer from disabilities. Tickets are funded by local businesses and are pre-allocated to families who struggle to go to or enjoy a live performance. Circus Starr director Michelle Crossley said: “The barriers families face to accessing creative and cultural activities are many and varied.

“Some families simply can’t afford or have a child with a disability whose needs aren’t being met elsewhere. The atmosphere in our big top is warm, friendly and extremely relaxed. Children are encouraged to be themselves – shout out, move around, dance or take time out if they need to.”

Alert after spate of car break-ins

MOTORISTS have been warned to keep their vehicles locked after a spate of thefts from cars in Oswestry.

Police say there have been a number of reports of vehicles entered and items stolen.

The latest thefts took place on Monday night last week, according to officers in the town.

At about 11.50pm a resident saw a man trying handles of car doors, and damaging wing mirrors of vehicles parked in Llwyn Road.

He was white, possibly around 30, 5’4” tall, with shoulder-length hair, wearing a T-shirt and carrying a rucksack.

On the same night, a car parked at the roadside in Welsh Walls was entered and two radio-control drones, batteries and chargers were stolen.

A coat, phone and sunglasses were taken from a car on a driveway in Hillside.

Police are also investigating a break-in in Middleton Road.

Two men, each wearing light tracksuit bottoms and hooded jackets with hoods up, were seen in the fenced yard of business premises.

Vehicles were interfered with but no-one has reported any thefts during the incident, the police said.

School closure defended



Glyntraian Community Councillor Jools Payne, campaigners Emma Humphreys and Naomi Payne with Ysgol Pontfadog pupil Mason Bather Williams

A COUNCILLOR believes all views were taken into account before a controversial decision to close a primary school near Oswestry.

A final decision was made by Wrexham Council’s executive board on Tuesday last week to close the 18-pupil Pontfadog School, as part of a restructuring of schools in the Ceiriog Valley.

A host of campaigners attended the meeting, and said that the views of 1,300 objectors had not been taken into consideration.

The consultation had been called into question before, when the council admitted not all the responses had been looked at.

However, Councillor Phil Wynn, lead member for education at Wrexham Council, said he believes the process was correct and all views were considered.

He said: “I am also confident, after a lengthy public engagement process, that all views were taken into account and my hope is all interested parties will now come together to work on delivering a positive educational outcome for all of the children living in the Ceiriog Valley – and to hopefully find a new use for the Ysgol Pontfadog site, which will add to the vibrancy of the village thereby addressing the genuine concerns of many of the responders to the statutory notice.” Councillor Wynn also said that no politician goes into local government to close down schools, but he has to think of

the best for the 12,000 plus pupils in Wrexham’s primary schools.

Campaigners have vowed to continue the fight to save the small primary school.

Glyntraian Community Council has revealed it is seeking legal advice on challenging the decision.

The council is also seeking to put the matter in front of the Education Secretary, Kirsty Williams AM, and the Public Ombudsman for Wales, Nick Bennett.

Council chair Chris Fothergill said: “It brings shame on the authority’s officers, who conducted an outrageously biased, fundamentally flawed consultation, based on a false premise and which clearly had a pre-determined outcome from the outset.

“That the executive board, to a man and woman, defended the indefensible is as confounding as it is shocking.”

Councillor Jools Payne also hit out at the decision. She said: “Welsh speakers and English speakers, indigenous farming families from the valley and those, like me who opted to move here and educate their children in an idyllic rural primary school setting, stand united in their condemnation of the council leadership’s contemptuous, condescending disregard for democracy and the views of 1,300 plus people from across the Ceiriog Valley whose lucid objections to the proposal to close this historic school were ignored.”

Hundreds of nominations for NHS awards

ALMOST 500 nominations have been submitted for an annual awards ceremony celebrating the work of staff and volunteers at Shropshire’s two main hospitals.

Many of nominees for the Values in Practice (VIP) Awards have come from patients and relatives who wanted to thank staff for the treatment they had received at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Princess Royal Hospital in Telford.

One relative wrote in to praise a member of staff in A&E, describing her as “a true angel”.

She went on to say: “The most caring of nurses – nothing was too much trouble. A&E was very busy, but she made my husband feel he was the only patient there.

“Found him blankets, checked if he wanted a cup of tea and kept popping by to ease his worries.”

A patient who wanted to nominate the oncology team described them as being “dedicated to the total care of the patient.

“No problem is too big or too small for them to deal with.”

And another relative, nominating the orthopaedic team and fracture clinic, said: “Brilliant care of my mother-in-law after a nasty injury on holiday.

Report by Lisa O’Brien

Excellent after care – they are still calling monthly now.”

Another nomination came in for a member of the domestic team for the way she interacted with the nominator’s four-year-old son.

She said: “She is always smiling and friendly. My son loves her loads. She really goes above and beyond for everyone.”

Simon Wright, chief executive at The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH), which runs RSH and PRH, said: “We are overwhelmed by the response to this year’s Values in Practice Awards.”

He added: “We have never had so many nominations and I am really looking forward to reading through them.

“Every day across our hospitals, we see remarkable acts from individuals and teams, and this is our small way of saying ‘thank you’, on behalf of our patients, their loved ones and colleagues.”

This year’s Values in Practice Awards will tie in with the national celebrations to mark the 70th anniversary of the NHS.

The awards ceremony will take place in one of the hangars at RAF Cosford on September 28. Awards will be given out in eight categories.

Invertek brews up savings in Sri Lankan tea industry

WELSHPOOL-BASED Invertek Drives is helping create significant efficiencies and savings in the world’s fourth largest tea producing country as part of a project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Invertek, a designer and manufacturer of variable frequency drives (VFD), is supplying 200 of its Optidrive Eco drives in the first phase of a tea withering project in Sri Lanka through sales partner Hayleys Aventura Pvt. Ltd.

One of the objectives of the multimillion-dollar project is to make the tea withering process of Sri Lanka’s tea industry more efficient and to reduce its impact on the environment.

The project, led by the Sri Lanka Sustainable Energy Au-

thority, under the direction of the Ministry of Power and Renewable Energy and United Nations Development Programme in Sri Lanka, aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector by developing a NAMA framework, with the objective of supporting appropriate climate change mitigation actions in country. The project is financially supported by the Global Environment Facility.

In total, the project will facilitate the implementation of 1,000 bio-digesters, and 1,000 variable frequency drives in tea factories throughout the country, as well as the use of photovoltaic technology.

“Tea production is a major industry in Sri Lanka employing over one million people and

accounting for three per cent of the country’s GDP,” said Nick Thorne, Invertek’s sales manager responsible for Sri Lanka.

“Each tea withering trough uses large amounts of energy to drive a motor powering fans that aerate the tea leaves to remove the moisture of tea leaf, drying them by up to 40 to 50 per cent over a 12 to 18 hour period. By replacing the existing starters, combined with the efficiencies delivered through the Optidrive Eco, the amount of energy used will be reduced dramatically.”

The Optidrive Eco VFDs provide optimised speed control of the fan motors used, ensuring greater efficiency that minimises energy usage and thus cuts overall CO2 emissions locally and throughout the energy chain.

Headquarters to be built after plan approved

A BUSINESS will base its UK headquarters in Oswestry after planning permission was granted.

Aico Ltd, which specialises in smoke, heat and CO2 detectors, had applied to build a three storey building on land off Maesbury Road. The building will include office space, a training centre, an auditorium, as well as warehouse and packing facilities, along with parking for more than 80 vehicles.

It will also see the number of employees double to 70 full-time workers.

Aico Ltd already has premises on the nearby Mile Oak Business Park and has been based in the town for the last 25 years.

Shropshire Council planning officer Philip Mullineux said:

“The business has reached maximum usage of their existing premises on the Mile Oak Industrial Estate and are seeking planning approval for new UK headquarters that will allow the company to expand in the short, medium and long term future.

“During the application processing period amended elevations and floor plans were received requesting changes to the internal layout which are considered acceptable as they do not significantly change the development from that as originally proposed.”

Oswestry Rural Parish Council had welcomed the proposal, although it did note that the adjacent Weston Road is a “well-used commuter route” and requested a pavement be included

as part of the application. It added: “This development will offer an opportunity to improve the infrastructure of this route that will improve safety for all users, and encourage the use of alternative modes of transport that potentially would be beneficial to the business and its workforce.”

At the time of submission, Aico Ltd said the site would “ensure the continued success of this dynamic and progressive company within the local area and facilitate the creation of much needed additional employment opportunities.”

The site had previously been identified for a garden centre which was approved by appeal in July 2017 but was never developed.

18Children have the chance to turn detective

Oswestry & Border Chronicle Thursday, August 16, 2018

YOUNGSTERS in a Mid Wales town have the chance to test their detective skills.

In Montgomery, two quiz trails are taking place designed for children of all ages. The Town of Little Cars Trail is designed for younger children and is pushchair friendly. The quiz challenges children to find the names of 14 cars in windows at locations around the town centre taking in all the local sites.

The quiz also includes a dot-to-dot puzzle and, once they've finished the trails, the whole family can visit the Cloverlands Model Car Museum in Arthur Street to see the original model vehicles up close.

For adventurous children aged approximately seven to 13 years, the Montgomery Historic Town Quiz Trail offers the chance to explore the back streets of the town on foot, discover some little-known facts and to stop for some fun at the playpark.

Quizzers must follow the clues around the town to find the answers.

Local mum, Nicky Markham, said: "We found a secret path we didn't know existed and learned some interesting facts."

Both quiz trails cost £1.50 each and include a Montgomery Trails pencil with Monty the Dragon topper. Quizzers can also opt to enter a Destination Montgomery free draw for vouchers to exchange at food and drink businesses in the town.

Call for rethink on volunteer driver plans

A SHROPSHIRE councillor is calling on the Department for Transport to rethink proposals that threaten the future of volunteer drivers.

The call, from Councillor Viv Parry, follows reports that the DfT could insist on volunteer drivers for services like Dial-a-Ride having a commercial licence, which cost thousands of pounds.

Councillor Parry said the south of the county relied heavily on these volunteer drivers and would do even more so in the future.

She said: "Future Fit is currently developing its transport strategy for the new healthcare structure in the county. Given the very rural nature of our county and the repeated cutbacks in bus services, minibuses and car services run by voluntary organisations are going to play an integral part in this strategy."

"Unfortunately these very services are threatened by an initiative by the Department of Transport which could impact drastically on the number of voluntary drivers available."

In April, the DfT announced it would consult over plans to determine whether drivers need to be reclassified as commercial drivers.

Councillor Parry is urging residents to write to their MP and Shropshire Councillors to object to the proposals.

She said: "It's time for Shropshire Council and our MPs to redouble their efforts on this issue. Lack of joined up thinking like this could derail plans to improve healthcare reform not just in Shropshire but across England."

"Quite apart from the health debate, many people, especially the elderly are dependent on the services of Dial a Ride and voluntary cars to get around."

Classic rock book re-issued

A CLASSIC rock book written by a Shropshire-born musician is being re-issued with a new three-page foreword by Hollywood star Johnny Depp.

Ian Hunter's Diary of a Rock 'n' Roll Star was originally published in 1974.

It was an account of touring in the early 1970s by his band Mott the Hoople.

The updated version has a new chapter on a Japanese tour and new photographs.

It will retail for £18.99 and is published on September 27 by Omnibus Press.

The 79-year-old singer-songwriter was born in Oswestry and he worked as a junior reporter for the old Wellington Journal before finding pop and rock fame.

Johnny Depp is a big fan of Mott the Hoople and plays guitar, recently appearing in Birmingham's Genting Arena with the Hollywood Vampires.

Health warning given as new figures show quarter of women are obese while pregnant

Report by Daniel Morris

MORE than a quarter of pregnant women seen by the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust are obese at the time of their first screening, according to newly-released figures.

This puts the area's soon-to-be mothers among the most obese in England, as health professionals warn they could be putting both their own and their baby's health at risk by not losing weight before getting pregnant.

According to data from NHS Digital, around 4,970 women were weighed at their first antenatal booking appointment with the trust in the 12 months to April 2018. Of these, 26 per cent were found to have a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or above, placing them in the obese range.

A further 30 per cent were deemed over-

weight, with a BMI of 25 or over. When the number of underweight women is taken into account, the figures mean that only about 40 per cent of all expectant mothers seen by the trust were considered to be at a healthy weight while in the 10 to 12-week mark of their pregnancy.

According to both the NHS and the Royal College of Midwives, obese women are more at risk of a range of complications during pregnancy. These include a higher chance of miscarriage, high birth weight, gestational diabetes, premature birth, thrombosis, pre-eclampsia and stillbirths. They may also suffer

complications during childbirth, with the RCM warning that overweight and obese women are at a greater risk of having to have a caesarean section or experiencing haemorrhages or shoulder dystocia – where the baby gets stuck during delivery. A recent US study published in the medical journal BMJ also linked a number of lifestyle factors in mothers, including a high BMI, with an increased risk of their children suffering from obesity during childhood.

Across England, almost half of women were heavier than advised at their booking appointment over the same 12-month period.

Just over 21 per cent were obese, while more than 27 per cent were overweight.

Tam Fry, spokesman for the National Obesity Forum, described the numbers as "sadden-

ing". He added: "Getting into shape before a conception and ensuring that you are eating healthily has been a long advocated message but too few heed it."

"A woman unhealthily overweight at booking in can not only be a health risk for her foetus but also for herself. The increasing number of babies being born already obese is also very concerning." While the NHS advises overweight and obese women to lose weight prior to becoming pregnant, they do not recommend dieting once they have become pregnant. Clare Livingstone, Professional Policy Advisor at the RCM, said: "While most overweight and obese women will have a straightforward pregnancy and birth, the risk of complication is increased to both mother and baby."

Hillfort campaigners in planning application plea

Report by Jonny Drury

CAMPAIGNERS fighting to protect the setting around a landmark near Oswestry are calling for a "fair and transparent" process after an application to build houses nearby was made.

Galliers Homes is behind proposals for a residential development to deliver two phases of 50 to 60 homes on land off Whittington Road.

No site plans have been published, however campaigners for protecting Oswestry's Hillfort want a "robust and even" planning application.

They believe the development will "decimate" the cultural value of the hillfort.

They also argued that noise and light pollution will affect the landmark.

The area of land earmarked for housing is known as OSW004 under countywide development plans.

A statement from Hands Off Old Oswestry Hillfort (HOOOH) said: "In addition to decimating an Iron Age landscape of incalculable cultural value, the scheme would squander high grade agricultural land belonging to a registered historic farmstead for housing that could and should be built elsewhere."

Priority

"The government's stated priority is for development on brownfield sites in preference to greenfield, especially high tariff greenfield like OSW004 within the setting of a nationally significant hillfort."

"Urban sprawl in this spot will add to noise, air and light pollution, detracting from a heritage asset and tourist attraction with global appeal."

"It will also exacerbate traffic congestion on Shropshire's busiest trunk road lying just metres away, as well as adding to the gridlock on routes to the Marches School on the other side of town. Of all the places to target housing in this vast county, this enigmatic hillfort and landscape lauded by experts as the Stonehenge of the Iron Age should not be one of them."

The campaign group has insisted the development bid will be closely scrutinised by national environmental and heritage organisations.

HOOOH added: "The development would clearly change the setting of two scheduled monuments – Old Oswestry and Wat's Dyke – while lying within one of the most visually and archaeologically significant zones of the hillfort's ancient landscape."

Nurses donning tiaras for hospice fundraiser



Severn Hospice outreach nurses Rebecca Harding, Michelle Dean, Sandra Morris, Eirian Thomas and Elsa Davies

A CHARITY wants women to come forward and take part in a sponsored walk.

The second of Severn Hospice's Cinderella-themed ladies-only fundraising walks will go ahead at the Shrewsbury Sports Village on September 8. Hannah Gamston, fundraising officer for events at Severn Hospice, said: "Our midnight walks have been a key part of our events calendar for over a decade now, raising much-needed funds for us."

"Keeping with the Cinderella theme the walk will start at 10pm and we are encouraging all those taking part to be back by midnight to avoid turning into a pumpkin."

"For those planning on staying up late for our midnight walk you might want to make the most of our special offer. If you register a team of four or more ladies before August 31 each walker will receive a free T-shirt and tutu to wear on the night."

"We are thrilled that some of our wonderful outreach nurses will be joining us for the walk, they work tirelessly out in the community and see first-hand the difference the money raised from events like this make." Eirian Thomas, outreach nurse, said: "A team of us will be swapping our nurses' uniforms for tutus and tiaras for the Shrewsbury Cinderella midnight walk." To register online, visit severnhospice.org.uk/events

Pioneering equestrian product launched by firm

A PIONEERING new equestrian product made from recycled carpet fibres by a Mid Wales company has been launched at a race meeting.

The Canter Carpet has been made to provide a low maintenance and hard wearing weather resistant equestrian surface for arenas, lunging pens, turnouts and gallops.

The product has been developed by the waste management company the Potter Group, owned by James Potter who along with his wife Jean own a number of horses across the country.

Made from carpet fibres, the product can be used as a standalone surface or to top up an existing surface such as sand or rubber to create an improved experience for both horse and rider.

The product was launched at Bangor on Dee races ladies day, and is now supplied to high profile trainers including Nigel Twiston-Davies, Alan King, Peter Bowen, Emma Lavelle, Kerry Lee, Oliver Greenall and Ffos Las Racecourse.

As part of the launch, The Potter Group sponsored the 3.45pm race on Ladies' Day,

aply named The Canter Carpet Handicap Steeple Chase, and have also become sponsors of the penultimate fence on the course.

Debbie Potter, director at The Potter Group, said: "We're so delighted to have officially launched Canter Carpet at this summer's ladies' day event. We have a great association with Bangor-On-Dee Racecourse and it was the perfect opportunity to showcase our product."

"Canter Carpet provides a number of benefits, creating a perfectly cushioned surface for softer landings and reducing fatigue by al-

lowing the horse to ride on top of the surface, rather than sinking into it.

"We've had a tremendous amount of interest so far, and we're very much looking forward to demonstrating Canter Carpet at our Showpiece Arena at Leighton Farm to a range of new customers over the coming months." The Potter Group has a long and rich history in the equestrian community. Mr Potter owns the Leighton Farm Estate, which houses Yorton Stud Farm – one of the country's fastest-growing National Hunt breeding operations.

Skills hub to help more into work

A NEW employer-led skills training hub could be developed across the region to help more people move into the construction industry.

A meeting has been held to look at options to support the Herefordshire, Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin construction sector – and draw up a blueprint to be used to apply for Government funding.

The Government wants to create at least 20 training hubs across the country to help train long-term unemployed, students and people who are looking to make a career change into the construction industry find their way.

The Marches LEP, the body responsible for driving growth across the region, has already registered its interest in bidding for some of the £20.8 million available.

It has been working with the Shropshire Constructing Excellence business network, Shropshire Construction Training Board and other partners to start the ball rolling.

Kathryn Jones, Marches LEP partnership manager, said it was now vital that industry employers came up with ideas and suggestions for the way in which the hub might operate.

"It is essential that any bid we make for funding for a training hub is business-led," she said.

"We have had some excellent input from employers already.

"Those ideas need to be in line with the Government's funding objectives."

Helpers clock up 185 hours fundraising

A TOTAL of 185 hours of fundraising was clocked up by a charity's volunteers over a recent weekend.

West Mercia Search and Rescue had 30 volunteers raising vital funds in supermarkets in Oswestry, Kidderminster, Bridgnorth and Hereford.

Dave Brown, secretary for West Mercia Search and Rescue, said: "This type of fundraising is vitally important for us, there is tremendous competition for funds among the smaller charities in the UK. None of our members are paid for their time, their travel costs, or their personal equipment – 100 per cent of what we collect goes to the operational costs of the charity."

The charity aids the emergency services in searches for the most vulnerable members of society.

West Mercia Search and Rescue has helped out in searches for missing people in the county such as Shane Walsh, who was found dead in the river in Shrewsbury last year. Mr Walsh's widow Kirsty is now an ambassador for the charity.

New era to start at pub in town

ONE of the oldest pubs in a North Wales town is set to be opened as a new bar and restaurant later this year.

The former Wynnstay Arms on Bridge Street, Llangollen has been standing empty for over a year, but now the historic building is being transformed into a new venue called The Three Eagles.

It was purchased by couple Matt and Vicky Jones, who already own Knights Construction Group and nearby wedding venue Tyn Dwr Hall.

They are working alongside Tracey Owen on the new venture which is going to create new jobs for the area.

Matt said: "Vicky and I are delighted to have purchased this iconic, Grade II-listed building and we are looking forward to transforming it into a destination venue that will attract guests from right across the region."

"I grew up in the Llangollen area and live here today so I'm really focused on getting this project underway. I'm hugely proud of this town."

Picture focus



Ian Woosnam unveils the plaque at Llanymynech Golf Club



Ian Woosnam with club captain Stuart Jones, president Brian Suckley, ladies captain Sandra Griffiths and senior captain Peter Humphreys



Ian Woosnam at Llanymynech Golf Club with club representatives

Emotional homecoming for legendary golfer Ian

Report by Joseph Masi

AN emotional Ian Woosnam was given the warmest of welcomes after he returned to Llanymynech Golf Club for the unveiling of a plaque in his honour.

The 1991 Masters champion – who is also a multiple Ryder Cup winner – took a trip down memory lane by returning to the course where he honed his skills as a youngster.

Woosnam, who was born in Oswestry and grew up in St Martins, was given a rapturous welcome by club members and got emotional when he was asked to unveil a plaque detailing his achievements in the game.

"It's such a great honour – that is something very special," said the golfer who also captained Europe to Ryder Cup success in 2006.

"To come back and stand on the first tee and see a lot of people I haven't seen for a long time is overwhelming, I just want to say thank-you very much.

"I found out about the plaque a few weeks ago and it's made me very proud.

Friends

"I came back seven years ago with some friends and went to the 12th hole because I wanted to show them what Llanymynech is all about. It's an amazing view and it never changes. I remember being on the ninth hole as a youngster and trying to get over that ravine on the right-hand side.

"It takes me back, it took me years to get over that damn thing.

"But it's very different now, the course has come on a long way."

Mr Woosnam unveiled the plaque alongside club president Brian Suckley and club captain Stuart Jones. Mr Suckley said: "Ian has joined us in recognition of his golfing achievements.

"It's been many years since you shared these fairways with your mum and dad. Your enthusiasm for the game became apparent from the moment you became a junior member.

"As a junior you looked forward to the day you could reach the ridge from the fairway.

"Time moved on and you became a professional, your progression has been extraordinary.

"It all began at Llanymynech Golf Club and we are all very proud of your achievements."

Mr Jones added: "Ian has had a glittering career and it's incredible to think he started in this humble hill.

"We are all so proud of him."



Ian Woosnam takes a look at the course



Ian Woosnam with junior captain James Jones



Ian Woosnam shares a joke during his Llanymynech homecoming



Ian Woosnam with his brother Gareth

Scout Boot Scooter



- Max Range: upto 10 miles
- Max Speed: 4 mph
- Max User Weight: 20 stone

Plus FREE Insurance

SALE PRICE
£449*

SAVE
£50
On Previous Price

Explorer Sport Boot Scooter



- Suspension system
- 2 year Warranty
- Height adjustable seat which swivels 360 degrees, for easy transfer on and off the scooter
- Black puncture proof, non marking tyres.

Plus FREE Insurance

SALE PRICE
£799*

SAVE
£50
On Previous Price

Jazzy 'Zero Turn' Boot Scooter



- Dual motors for added traction
- Charging port built into the tiller for easy charging.
- Max Speed: 4mph
- Max Range: 9.9 miles
- Max User Weight: 21stone

Plus FREE Insurance

SALE PRICE
£1149*

SAVE
£50
On Previous Price

Rascal Pioneer Road / Pavement Scooter



- Max. Speed 8mph
- Max User Weight 25 stone
- Fitted with full lighting kit and handbrake for added safety

Plus FREE Insurance

SALE PRICE
£1995*

SAVE
£200
On Previous Price

Rascal 388xl Road / Pavement Scooter



- Designed for ease of manoeuvring
- Max User Weight: 21 stone
- Max Range: 20 miles
- Max Speed: 6 mph

SAVE
£100
On Previous Price

SALE PRICE
£1195*

Frontier Road / Pavement Scooter



- Max Range: 25 miles
- Max Speed: 8mph
- Max User Weight: 21 stone

SAVE
£100
On Previous Price

SALE PRICE
£1595*

Tabley Riser Recliner Chair



- Overall Height: 42.5"
- Overall Width: 32"
- Overall Depth: 35.5"
- Maximum User Weight: 23 stone

OLIVE COLOUR £349

SAVE
£250
On MRP

ONLY
£399*

BIG SUMMER SALE

Langley Riser Recliner



- Independent leg rest and recline functions
- Maximum User Weight: 20 stone

OLIVE COLOUR £549

SAVE
£400
On MRP

ONLY
£599*

Tri Wheel Walker Aluminium



- Designed to be lighter and more manoeuvrable
- Includes bag, basket and tray
- Maximum weight limit 21 stone

SAVE
£8.51
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SALE PRICE
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STAIRLIFTS £200 OFF NEW CURVED

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SAVE
£10
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- Helps you get in and out of your vehicle easily and comfortably.
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FREE WHEELCHAIR CUSHION WITH EVERY WHEELCHAIR PURCHASE

Nodular Ring Cushion



- Takes pressure away from endangered areas, making sitting more comfortable

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15%
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JUST LOOK AT THESE **BIG** SUMMER **SALE** OFFERS



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ROAD SCOOTERS

£50 OFF
ALL BOOT SCOOTERS

WALKERS
FROM ONLY
£39.95*

ST1 Boot Scooter



- Max Range: 6 miles
- Max Speed: 4 mph
- Max User Weight: 18 stone

SAVE
£50
On Previous Price

SALE PRICE
£399*

Plus FREE
Insurance

Economy Bathlift



- Maximum legroom, high backrest and a longer seat for added support
- Max User Weight: 20St

SAVE
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Take a step back and enjoy time in the shade

WHILE the mercury stays high, a shady spot in your outdoor space provides a welcoming retreat, whether under a canopy of trees or a pergola adorned with climbers, writes Hannah Stephenson.

Even just a bench sheltered from the sun by colourful blooms, can provide a comfortable and pretty shaded stop.

While your summer bedding continues to bloom during the heatwave, lush, deep green foliage plants and other cooling specimens will be thriving in the shade.

Here, Mark Sage, head of horticulture at Wyevale Garden Centres, offers some top tips for planting in the shade...

CHANGE EXPECTATIONS

Shade can come from buildings, trees, fences and dominant evergreen plants. Change your expectations of shady planting and think about foliage, form, texture, muted colours and bold drifts.

Many plants do well in shade, as the soil in shady areas can retain moisture and provide ideal growing conditions. One of the joys of planting in the shade is luscious foliage. Rich foliage can be enhanced by adding splashes of colour, with shade-tolerant Busy Lizzies, stocks, violas and nicotiana.

MANAGE DRY SHADE

Dry shade can be a challenge, but it's not an impossible growing condition for plants. The main problem is the lack of light and moisture.

Dry shade can often be found near trees, as their roots take moisture from the soil, as well as at the foot of walls or directly under roofs.

For plants to thrive in dry shade, add as much organic material to the area as possible, such as homemade leaf mould, compost or soil conditioner. This will help retain moisture and improve the soil condition.

USE THE RIGHT FERTILISERS

Using a fertiliser will help add nutrients directly to the soil in a form that plant roots can absorb quickly. Don't use high nitrogen fertilisers, as you want to promote shade-tolerant plant growth and these fertilisers rely on sunlight. Instead, use sulphate of potash, which has a very high potassium content, or wood ash from a bonfire.

FIND OUT THE pH

Use a soil testing kit to check the acidity or alkalinity of your soil because, in particular acid or alkaline soils, plants may not be able to use all the available nutrients and minerals while in others, the nutrients may have been removed. It will also help you choose the right plants for the soil. Plants which are unfussy about the soil include fatsias, astilbes, astrantia and many ferns. Acid-loving plants can

do well in shade include rhododendrons, azaleas and hydrangea

ALLOW ROOTS SOME SPACE

When you're planting in the shade, you need to ensure the roots of the new plants go down into cool, moist soil. Fork the base of each planting hole. Even if your plants are tolerant to dry shade, you still need to water them. Give them a good soak before and after you've planted them and keep watering them for the first year until they're established.

When you've planted, mulch the area with a layer of homemade leaf mould or rotted garden compost to retain moisture, prevent weeds, and protect the roots when it's cold.

USE WATER TO CHILL OUT

If you have a pond, it shouldn't be completely in the shade as it will just go stagnant, but subtle green marginal planting with touches of colour from plants such as astilbes and irises will give the area a cool, calming aura.

Good plants around ponds in partial shade include Water horsetail (Equisetum fluviatile), dogwood (Cornus alba), Siberian iris "Caesar's Brother" (Iris sibirica), water forget-me-not (Myosotis scorpioides) and yellow iris (Iris pseudacorus).

USE CLIMBERS TO CREATE SHADE

If you have a structure such as arch or pergola, grow climbers over it in the sun, which will provide you with shade underneath. Climbers which grow over a freestanding structure in the sun often do better than when planted against a wall or fence because there is no restriction of light.



Reinstating wind farm subsidies 'would cut bills'

A GREEN energy expert has called on the Government to reinstate onshore wind subsidies which would help cut energy bills.

Ron Fox was commenting after a new study recently showed that building more onshore wind farms could save householders £1.6 billion on the cost of their electricity.

A total of 7,000 onshore wind turbines generating up to 12 gigawatts of power have been built in the UK.

They are commercially viable thanks to subsidies paid on energy bills. But since this benefit was stopped three years ago development has ground to a halt even though an estimated 1,800 turbines, which could produce an extra four gigawatts of power, have been given planning go-ahead.

"It is incredible that nothing has been done about this since 2015," said Mr Fox, of Noreus Ltd on the University of Keele Science and Innovation Park. "Yet here is a golden opportunity to cut our carbon footprint at the same time as giving residents cheaper energy bills."

Now businesses are lobbying Parliament to revive the sector as they believe that the



Building more onshore wind farms could cut householders' energy bills, it has been claimed

potential savings were "staggering" according to Lindsay McQuade, chief executive of Scottish Power Renewables, one of the companies that commissioned the report by BVG Associates.

They want ministers to resume offering contracts guaranteeing a price for the electricity they generate, similar to those

offered to offshore wind farms and nuclear plants such as Hinkley Point C. This usually is a figure above the market price and it relies on consumers paying "top-up" subsidies.

The BVG study suggests that from 2023 wholesale market prices would be higher than those needed by onshore wind farms,

so that they can pay back the extra they received to consumers, which over 15 years would be more than £1.6 billion.

It added that if the onshore wind farms were offered contracts next year they would need £45.60 per megawatt hour compared with the £92.50 per megawatt hour offered to Hinkley Point C nuclear plant.

But some critics say this is an unfair comparison as nuclear power can be generated round the clock while wind farms are dependent on the weather.

One unexpected benefit from offshore wind farms, as opposed to onshore wind farms, is that the latest two-year study backed by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has shown that seagulls were observed changing their flight path to avoid the turbines.

The project, commissioned by 11 offshore wind developers, looked at more than 600,000 videos which recorded only six collisions with birds, far fewer than scientists previously thought.

But ornithologists have called for more research in more locations onshore and offshore closer to seabird colonies.

Summer holidays will fly by outside in the garden

Report by Hannah Stephenson

THE thoughts of school holidays fill some parents with dread.

But if you can get your kids engaged in gardening – or at least off their screens and into the fresh air – the weeks will fly by.

Award-winning garden designer and mother-of-two Ann-Marie Powell – who designed the BBC Countryfile's 30th anniversary garden at this year's RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show – says wildlife and growing-your-own could be just the magnet you need to lure youngsters outside.

Here, she shares eight ways to get your kids into the garden this summer...

CREATE A VEG PATCH NEAR PLAY EQUIPMENT

"We have a little veg plot at the end of our garden where all the herbs are, and I always grow food particularly for them to scrump," says Powell. "The plot is close to their trampoline, so they go down there and I'll say, 'Boys, while you're down there can you get me some basil', or, 'Pick me some peas', or whatever is in season."

"Now they know all of the herbs and veg and they notice wildlife like ladybirds."

KEEP BINOCULARS HANDY

Powell says: "We have some binoculars in our living room, as luckily we are surrounded by trees. They love looking through the binoculars to see what they can see."

AMUSE THEM WITH APPS

If they really can't be separated from their phones, load some apps to your advantage. "They have this app where you record the birdsong and the app will identify the bird (warblr.co.uk and ChirpOMatic.com are popular choices)," says Powell. "When we get back, we can then look the birds up in a book."

"If you talk to them about wildlife, they'll want to know all about it."

If they're really keen to know the name of a plant or flower, there are various plant identification apps which will do the job, including FlowerChecker (flowerchecker.com) and PlantSnap (plantsnap.com), where you take a photo of the plant and the app will endeavour to identify it.

GO ON FAMILY WALKS

"I have two children, Archie, 14, and Gilbert, nine, and like all children these days, they are addicted to the internet," says Powell. "So every Sunday we go for a family walk, which we've done for years, and look at the landscape. It's fantastic family time and it means they're experiencing a little bit of the great outdoors. They almost always moan about it but as soon as we get out there, they are changed children. And we talk."

VISIT NATURE RESERVES

Powell says: "Since the boys were little, we have been to nature reserves. Straight away, their shoes were off, they were walking through the streams, swinging in the trees – they always have great fun."



Building a den is a great exercise for children and creates a place for them to use their imagination



Deep concentration from this young girl sowing seeds

CREATE A WILDLIFE HAVEN

"We have lots of plants for pollinators in our garden and you'll find a massive list from the RHS (rhs.org.uk), from echinaceas to rose," says Powell. "They attract insects, which create interest for children in the garden."

ENCOURAGE THEM TO GROW THINGS

"Try sowing seeds," says Powell. "My kids like sowing big seeds, slightly weird-looking, and they want to know what the plants are going to be like and what they will produce. Peas and beans are so easy and they

grow really quickly, and sunflowers are brilliant – the bigger, the better."

ENCOURAGE INSECTS INTO THE GARDEN

"We often see staghorn beetles on our walks, and the bigger the better. Kids are interested in bugs, but we are seeing less of them, which is why we need to plant pollinating plants," says Powell.

"When I've cut back long grasses, they've made hollow stems – so we've put the stems together, bunched them up and put them in trees to make bug houses."



Children learn about herbs and wildlife in a vegetable patch

GIVE THEM SPACE FOR A DEN

"Kids love to be able to call a space their own, where they can use their imagination. Dens are brilliant and they can make a right old mess out of old bamboo sticks or cut-off branches."

"You could even plant bamboo plants and bend over the stems. They'll make it into an absolute horror but it's theirs, they need to own it," Powell adds. "Put the idea in their head by, say, reading them a book at bedtime about dens and suggest they could do that in the garden."

Spacious detached property overlooks picturesque valley

Ty Hywel, Llangynog, Oswestry, is a spacious detached property situated in a large plot overlooking the valley with the benefit of an adjoining paddock.

Having four bedrooms, ample car parking and a large garden and a hot tub, it is for sale through JJ Dell & Co at £425,000. The property is situated on the outskirts of Llangynog village in the picturesque Tanat Valley, and has fine views across the neighbouring farmland and surrounding hills. The property is an individually designed spacious detached dormer house. The well appointed accommodation has double glazing and oil fired heating. In more detail the porch covers a solid oak front door. The reception hall has stairs to the first floor, an under stairs cupboard and ceramic floor tiling. The living room has a feature Elgin & Hall fireplace with a gas stove, is dual aspect and has French doors onto the rear patio. The dining room has an Adams style fireplace with an electric stove, is dual aspect and has patio doors out to the side patio. Being comprehensively fitted, the oak breakfast kitchen has matching wall and base units with granite worktops, an integrated extractor and a free standing Smeg cooker with a six burner gas hob, a dishwasher, a glazed China display, is dual aspect and patio doors out to the side patio and ceramic tile flooring. The utility has an oak external door and ceramic floor tiling.

The cloakroom/WC has ceramic floor tiling. The first floor has fitted carpet over Chestnut floors. Bedroom one has a comprehensive range of fitted wardrobes and a store cupboard and en-suite shower room with ceramic floor tiling. Bedrooms two and three have a wardrobe cupboard, while bedroom four has an over stairs cupboard. The family bathroom has a white suite comprising of a WC, pedestal wash hand basin, a corner shower cubicle, bidet, bath and Chestnut flooring.

There is also a store room with French doors opening out to the front driveway.

The property is set in all approximately two acres accessed via a wide six-bar gate onto Tarmacadam driveway with ample parking and turning area.

KEY FEATURES

Spacious detached
Overlooking the valley
Adjoining paddock
Four bedrooms
Bathroom, guest WC & en-suite

LLANGYNOG £425,000



TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

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Detached house has superb valley views

GARTH
£374,950

An individual detached house with valley views and first floor open plan living, Tyn-Y-Pistyll at Garth, Glyn Ceiriog, comes with a large timber decked area, landscaped gardens and woodland.

It is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £374,950. Briefly the property comes with three bedrooms, a shower room and a bathroom.

A turning timber-built staircase rises up from the entrance hall to the upper level lobby with a tiled floor and external door to the rear. Access leads through to the living area which has a multi-fuel stove fitted to the slate built fireplace, being dual aspect with a large picture window to the rear and concealed radiators.

Contact Morris Marshall & Poole on 01691 679595 for more information.



Substantial farmhouse dates back to 17th century

OSWESTRY
£550,000

<<<

A substantial Grade II listed farmhouse dating back to the mid-17th century near Oswestry is the perfect project for long or short term remodelling.

Found at the end of its own extensive driveway, Great Fernhill Farmhouse sits in more than an acre of its own land.

"This is a sizeable farmhouse of huge potential and with much charm and character intact, including a stunning Jacobean open-well staircase rising from ground floor to attic, carved sprocketed eaves to the main building, generous ledged and braced doors and original quarry tile floors," explains Alistair Hilton, head of sales at Balfours.

Great Fernhill Farmhouse is marketed with a guide price of £550,000. Call Balfours on 01743 353511 for more details.

J.J. DELL & Co.

CHARTERED SURVEYORS

OSWESTRY

NEW



JJD1014

- End Terraced Bungalow In Popular Residential Area
- GFCH
- Entrance And Vestibule
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Living Room
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Front Gravelled Area
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- EPC Band - E

GUIDE PRICE £129,000

OSWESTRY




JJD988

- Period Three Bedroom Semi-Detached House In Quiet Residential Area
- Within Walking Distance Of Town Centre
- GFCH And Period Features
- Entrance Hall
- Living Room
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Cloakroom
- Front Garden
- Large Rear Garden
- EPC Band - E

GUIDE PRICE £169,000

OSWESTRY



JJD1007

- Up-dated And Decorated Semi-Detached Bungalow
- GFCH, UPVC Windows And Doors
- Outskirts Of Town Location
- Living Room
- New Kitchen
- Spacious Bedroom
- Good Sized Wet Room (Formerly Bedroom & Bathroom)
- Gardens
- Ample Off Road Parking
- EPC Band - D

£142,000

OSWESTRY

NEW



JJD1013

- Two Bedroom Semi-Detached House Situated In Popular Residential Area
- GFCH & Part D/Glazing
- Reception Hall
- Kitchen
- Living Room
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Front And rear Lawned Gardens
- Off Road Parking
- Garage Fronted Car Port
- EPC Band - D

GUIDE PRICE £134,995

PANT



JJD1006

- Individually Designed Detached Four Bedroomed House
- Quiet Cul De Sac Village Location
- GFCH & D/Glazing
- Spacious Reception Hall/Study
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Utility And Cloakroom
- Dining Room
- Living Room
- Master Bedroom En Suite
- Three Further Bedrooms
- Double Garage And Ample Parking
- Good Sized Easily Maintained Gardens
- EPC Band - E

GUIDE PRICE £350,000

GOBOWEN



JJD987

- Close Care Residential Bungalow On Purpose Built Complex
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Rear Enclosed Paved Yard
- Further Overnight Visitor Accommodation Available
- EPC Band - E

OFFERS IN THE REGION OF £65,000

GOBOWEN



JJD887

- Close Care Residential Bungalow
- Minimum Age 55 Years
- Attractive Purpose Built Complex
- CH & DG
- Lounge/Dining Area
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms
- Rear Enclosed Yard And Garage
- Short Walking Distance From Office
- EPC Band - F

GUIDE PRICE £89,950

CHURCH STREET, OSWESTRY - TO LET



JJD091

- Most Attractive Grade II Listed Property
- Short Distance From Major Retailers And Institutions
- Bar/Restaurant/Cafe Venue
- Town Centre Location
- Busy Trading Position
- Reception Area
- Lounge And Bar
- Beer Cellar
- Function Room
- Kitchen
- Male/Female/Disabled Toilets
- Flexible Terms To Be Agreed
- EPC Band - JJD091

RENT - £12,500

DEVELOPMENT SITE - HENGOED



JJD893

- Site Extending To 0.8 Acres
- Property Occupied By Repairs Garage
- OPP For Four Executive Dwellings
- Outskirts Of Village Location
- Open Views Across Surrounding Countryside
- We understand Mains Electricity And Water Available

£445,000

ELLESMERE - UNIT TO LET



JJD087

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- Providing Garage/Industrial/Storage
- Lends Itself To Light Engineering/Fabrication Use
- 2 x Two Tonne Cranes
- Excellent Yard Space Providing Parking/Lorry Parking
- GFCH
- Unit F - Floor Area - 643 sq. m (6,918 sq. ft)
- EPC Band - E

RENT: £19,000

OSWESTRY - TO LET

NEW



JJD089

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Leeswood, Morda Rd, Oswestry

£450,000

Detached Victorian 5 bedroom period family home. Large garden including former tennis court. Two en-suites. Impressive main bathroom. Three spacious reception rooms. Hand made kitchen and utility room. EPC Rating = 22(F)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



32 Bentley Drive, Oswestry

£375,000

Five bedroom detached House. Excellent location with attractive outlook. Two bedrooms with en-suites. Main bathrooms on first and second floors. Lounge with french doors to attractive garden. No Onward Chain. EPC Rating = 73(C)

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Fir Tree House, Rhewl Lane, Gobowen

£315,000

Brand new 4 bedroom detached house in a popular location. Luxury en-suite and walk in closet. Lounge, spacious open plan eat-in kitchen / family room, utility and cloakroom. Landscaped and well screen patio. Gas central heating. Predicted EPC - B (82)

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Shenfield, Llynclys

£279,950

Mature 3 bedroom house in semi-rural setting. Possible fourth bedroom if study adapted. 3 Reception. Kitchen, shower room, WC and rear porch. Generous gardens, ample parking and double garage. Partial oil heating and large wood stove. EPC Rating = 21(F)

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Holly Bush, Sarnau, Llanymynech O.I.R.O:

£225,000

Rural detached 3 bedroom bungalow in a small rural hamlet midway between Oswestry and Welshpool. LPG C/H and double glazing. Lawned gardens to front and rear. Requiring structural repair internally. No onward chain. EPC Rating: 20(G)

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59 Hampton Fields, Oswestry

£205,000

Two bedroom detached bungalow. Garage, gardens and ample parking. Gas central heating, double glazing. Very popular location close to Oswestry Town Centre. Quiet head of cul-de-sac position. Requires some updating. No chain. EPC Rating 48(E)

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7 Balmoral Close, Oswestry

£174,950

Detached two bedroom bungalow. Head of cul-de-sac location. Gas central heating, double glazing. Enclosed rear garden area and detached single garage. No chain. Regular Town Bus Service. No Chain. EPC Rating: 60(D)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



15 Trehowell Lane, Weston Rhyn

£144,950

Three bedroom semi-detached house. Lounge, dining room, kitchen. Corner plot with enclosed gardens and off road parking. Gas C/H. Close to village school. No Chain. EPC Rating = D(62). Ideal Family Home or Investment.

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54 School Lane, Trefonen

£139,000

Modern terraced 3 bedroom house in a popular and convenient village. Kitchen, lounge, conservatory. Garden, off road parking. Easy walk to primary school, public house and village shop. Double glazing and electric heating. EPC Rating = D (62)

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

3 Babbinswood, Whittington

£125,000

Two bedroom cottage style terrace home with small gardens to front and rear. Double glazed windows and doors, electric heating, lounge, kitchen and shower room with large walk-in shower. Convenient for A5 and Oswestry. EPC Rating = 13(G)

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Well appointed home sits in a cul-de-sac

TETCHILL
£279,000

A well appointed detached four bedroom house, 4 College Close, Tetchill, near Ellesmere is situated in a small cul-de-sac position with only five properties.

It is located in a sought after village on the outskirts of Ellesmere. The property is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £279,000.

The property is a well maintained detached dwelling traditionally constructed of brick under a slate roof having the benefit of oil fired central heating and double glazing.

The home has a reception hall, living room, dining room and kitchen. There is also a utility. On the first floor is the master bedroom, ensuite, two further bedrooms and a fourth bedroom or study.

Contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Stunning farmhouse enjoys superb views

LLANRHAEADR
£400,000

<<<

Clynog, Llanrhaeadr Ym Mochnant near Oswestry is a stunning Grade II listed farmhouse in an elevated position.

It is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £400,000. The property is situated on the outskirts of the picturesque village of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant close to the confluence of the rivers Tanat and Rhaeadr in the stunning Berwyn Mountains.

The property has a reception hall, music room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen lounge, kitchen, utility room, rear lobby, coal house, gallery landing, a loft storage room, integral garage, gun room, five first floor bedrooms, a family bathroom, five attic rooms, large gardens and an orchard/paddock.

Call Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.

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Oswestry, Shropshire

Guide Price £550,000

Great Fernhill Farmhouse is a Grade II listed five bedroom residence set within a picturesque plot of approx 1.3 acres (0.52 ha)

Capacious Kitchen / Utility Area Featuring Original Quarry Tiles and an Oil Nobel Cooker; Large Lounge with Views out onto the Garden, Dining Room / Study; Further Sitting Room, Downstairs Family Bathroom, Conservatory, Barrel-Vaulted Brick Cellar



Oswestry, Shropshire

Guide Price £495,000

A striking 4 bed house, boasting a triple garage with office above and outbuildings, one converted to a bar; all within a 1 acre (0.4 ha) plot

Living Room, Kitchen / Dining Room, WC, Four Bedrooms, En Suite, Family Bathroom, Ample Storage, Single Garage, Double Garage with WC, Leisure Room / Bar; Segregated Office Rooms above Garage, Garden Room / Office, Boiler Room with WC, EPC Rating D



Oswestry, Shropshire

Guide Price £425,000

An utterly charming Grade II Listed house in the heart of Oswestry town centre

Six Bedrooms, Hallway / Sitting Room, Kitchen / Breakfast Room, Four Bathrooms, Garden, Roof Terrace, Self Contained Flat, Garden, Double Garage



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**Shelf Bank Close
Oswestry** £165,000

- A deceptively spacious 2 bedroom semi detached bungalow
- Set in a quiet residential location.
- The property has been extended and maintained to the highest of standards
- Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Sun Room
- Bedroom 1, Bedroom 2/Study
- uPVC double glazing throughout
- Excellent gardens and driveway parking.



**The Meadows
Oswestry** £189,995

- A Spacious Detached Residential Bungalow
- Situated in a small cul-de-sac within the centre of Gobowen
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room
- Bedroom 1, Bedroom 2, Family Bathroom, Bedroom 3/Dining Room
- Shower Room, Conservatory, Private Rear Gardens
- Single Garage, Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing



**Monkmoor Road
Oswestry** £160,000

- NO CHAIN
- A well presented recently renovated 2 bedroom semi detached bungalow
- Situated on a generous plot located in a popular residential area
- Hallway, Lounge/Dining room, Kitchen
- Two bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Good sized front and rear gardens, single garage
- Gas central heating and Double Glazing throughout



**Prince Street
Oswestry** £94,995

- NO CHAIN
- 2 Bedroom Mid-Terrace House
- In need of modernisation,
- Situated within walking distance town centre
- Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen & Utility Room



**Morda
Oswestry** £460,000

- An impressive 5 Bedroom Barn Conversion
- Set within a quiet location on the outskirts of the village of Morda
- Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Room, Utility Room
- Inner Hallway, Bedroom 2 with En-suite
- 3 further Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Master Bedroom with En-suite Bathroom
- Gas fired central heating and timber double glazing throughout.
- Raised decking area and fenced terrace
- The grounds extend to the rear of the barn with a large lawned area and mature shrub borders.



**Beresford Gardens
Oswestry** £144,950

- BRAND NEW. ONLY TWO REMAINING
- Beresford Gardens is a new collection of nine two bedroom single storey dwellings
- Located within a short walking distance of the town centre
- Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Hallway
- Two Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Gas central heating and double glazing will be installed as standard
- All properties will be completed to the highest specification
- Benefit of a 10 year NHBC warranty.
- Parking Space, either Rear Garden and or Patio Area
- photographs shown are not the actual



**Meadow Dale
Llanymynech** £177,950

- SUMMER SALE - RESERVE BEFORE 31ST AUGUST AND GET FREE FLOOR COVERING, APPLIANCES AND GARDEN LANDSCAPING.
- NEW BUILD - A Three Bedroom Detached Family Home
- Situated on a brand new small residential development comprising of 35 plots
- Located on the outskirts of the the popular village of Llanymynech
- Open Plan Living Room/ Kitchen
- Cloakroom, Master Bedroom,
- 2 further Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Enclosed rear garden, garage and parking spaces.



**Regent Court
Oswestry** £94,995

- Well appointed 1/2 Bed 1st Floor Apartment
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Dining Area/Bed 2
- Kitchen, Bedroom & Bathroom
- 24 hour resident secretary facility
- Communal lounge & garden
- Secure car parking, security entrance system



**Babbinswood
Oswestry** £350,000

- A spacious 4 bed detached cottage
- Situated in the Hamlet of Babbinswood
- Ent Hall, Cloaks, Lounge/Dining Rm
- Kitchen, Utility, Snug & Conservatory
- Two en-suite bedrooms
- 2 further Bedrooms & Family Wet Rm
- Extensive lawned garden with hedge surround
- Patio area & side driveway to Double Garage
- UPVC double glazing throughout



**St. Barbara Close
Park Hall** £189,950

- An immaculately presented 2 bedroom semi-detached house
- Situated within the popular hamlet of Park Hall
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Conservatory
- Kitchen, Utility Room and Cloakroom
- 2 good sized bedrooms and
- Bathroom
- An enclosed rear garden with mature shrub borders and patio area
- Gas Fired central Heating and uPVC Double Glazing throughout
- EPC Rating D (64)



**Rowan Close
Gobowen** £149,995

- An well appointed 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Porch, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory
- 2 Bedrooms and Shower Room
- Well maintained front and rear garden
- Off road parking
- Gas C/H and hardwood D/G
- EPC Rating D (65)



**Llanforda Rise
Oswestry** £94,995

- NO CHAIN
- A well presented one bedroom ground floor apartment
- Located in a quiet location
- In the former grounds of High Lea House, off Llanforda Rise.
- Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen
- Bedroom and Bathroom



**Oswald's Well lane
Oswestry** £285,000

- A spacious 4 bedroom detached dormer bungalow
- Situated within walking distance of the Market Town of Oswestry.
- Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Utility Room, Dining Room,
- Study/Bedroom Four and Downstairs Bathroom.
- Three Bedrooms and Family Bathroom.
- Gas fired central heating and uPVC double glazing
- Good sized gardens with views over the Brynhafof playing fields
- EPC Rating C (70). NO CHAIN



**Artillery Road
Park Hall** £169,995

- A deceptively spacious 3 Bedroom Mid-Terrace Family Home.
- Recently been extended to offer an open plan kitchen/diner to the rear
- Separate Utility Room and WC.
- The lounge benefits from a Multi Fuel log burner & French doors to the garden
- Three Bedrooms and Newly fitted
- Bathroom to first floor.
- Externally the property offers a enclosed garden
- Paved patio providing a outdoor entertaining area
- UPVC double glazing. EPC Rating E (40)
- NO CHAIN



**Lloyd Street
Oswestry** £154,995

- NO CHAIN - An immaculately presented 3 bedroom mid-terrace property
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- Newly fitted Kitchen and Utility Room
- 3 Bedrooms and a newly fitted Bathroom
- Recently re-wired, damp course fitted, decoration, new carpets
- Newly fitted uPVC double glazed windows and doors throughout.
- Gas Fired Central Heating, EPC Rating D (64)



**High Fawr Avenue
Oswestry** £110,000

- NO CHAIN
- One bedroom semi detached bungalow
- In a sought after residential location
- Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen
- Bedroom and Bathroom
- Gardens to the rear & driveway
- Storage heaters, uPVC Double Glazing
- EPC Rating F (36)



Kinton Nesscliffe £325,000

- A truly unique 4 bedroom Semi-Detached Country Cottage
- Set within large well maintained gardens
- Spectacular views over the Shropshire countryside
- Dining room/Living Room
- Kitchen, Utility Room, Cloakroom
- Lounge, Bathroom
- Four bedrooms and Shower room
- uPVC double glazing and oil fired central heating
- Gardens, Garage and workshop



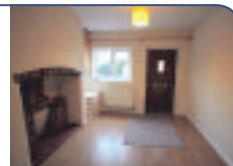
Llanrhaeadr YM Mochnant £165,000

- A traditional 3 bedroom semi-detached stone cottage
- Spacious living accommodation over three floors comprising
- Entr Hall, Lounge, and Family Room.
- To the lower level is the Kitchen
- Dining Room, Conservatory
- Utility Room and Shower Room
- 3 bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Riverside garden with wooden decking area
- Oil Fired c/h & partly double glazed windows
- NO CHAIN



**Upper Brook Street
Oswestry** £99,995

- Well presented 2 bedroom mid terraced property
- Situated on the fringe of the town centre.
- Lounge, Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms and Bathroom
- Rear Garden with Shed
- Gas C/H and D/G. EPC Rating F (28)
- An Ideal First Time or Investment Purchase
- NO CHAIN



**Building Plot
Chirk Bank** £74,995

- A residential plot located in the picturesque village of Chirk Bank extending to 0.04 acres or thereabouts with outline planning permission for the erection of one detached dwelling
- The site is located within walking distance of the Shropshire Union Canal and the Chirk Aqueduct



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The new magazine for Shropshire



YOUR COUNTY.
YOUR VOICE.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Issue 25...



NEWS

EVERY DOG HAS ITS DAY

Having a dog stolen is the greatest fear of every pooch owner in Shropshire and beyond – this week we look at the issue, its effects, and efforts to prevent it.

OUTDOORS

From swans to Spiderman, Dave Edwards shares his funniest stories of life with foam-clad football mascots.

EVENTS

A look ahead to the best events headed for Shropshire's theatres during this autumn's season.

FOOD

Sushi is increasingly popular among diners. One Shropshire restaurant is thriving on the raw fish dish.



REVIEWS

The best places to eat, the picks of what's on television, films heading to Shropshire cinemas, and the top 10 budget wedding reception venues.

PLUS - LOCAL NEWS | AVIATION
RUNAWAYS | BEE KEEPING
PUZZLES | DAN NIGHTINGALE
DOREEN TIPTON | BEAVERS
SHROPSHIRE ON TELEVISION

ON SALE FRIDAY

High street aims to be crowned The One in competition

WELSHPOOL made it onto prime time television in its bid to win a national award for its high street.

BBC's The One Show sent a live broadcast crew to Welshpool as part of its feature on the Great British High Street awards. Shopkeepers, councillors and members of the public turned out to show their support for the bid on camera on Tuesday evening last week. Welshpool Town Council is leading the bid to keep the high street alive. Mayor, Councillor Steve Kaye, said: "In recent years we have attracted

big names to Welshpool. Shops are opening in Welshpool, not closing."

One of the independent shopkeepers, Martin Riffell, owns Hardy's Bookshop in Berriew Street.

"I started with a stall in the market in the town hall," he said.

"After about five years I was able to move into a shop in the town."

"We have customers from all over the world come into the shop as well as local people. I have spent most of my life in Welshpool and

I am very proud of the town." Councillor Alison Davies added: "We have so much to offer the visitor to Welshpool and we are doing what we can to keep the High Street a vibrant place. Where else would you have a castle on your doorstep? We are the gateway to Wales."

The town's attractions and the beautiful countryside were part of the draw, Councillor Julie Ellis said.

"We have a steam train, the canal, the museum and of course Powis Castle."

A wheelchair user himself, Councillor Folk-

ert Veenstra said while there was still much to do, Welshpool was the most accessible town for disabled people in the area.

"We are opening facilities for severely disabled people at the Berriew car park soon," he said. The councillors said that the town council had taken over many of the services that Powys County Council felt unable to continue to fund.

Town clerk Robert Robinson said: "Only three per cent of our shops are empty and, when they are, we do our utmost to see them occupied again."

Rounding up support for event



Sarah McManus from the British Ironwork Centre and Kate Thomas for Macmillan Cancer Support try out a coracle

TIME is ticking to become a world champion in the wonderful world of coracle racing. There are only seven team places left for the Macmillan Cancer Support Coracle World Championships, which take place on the River Severn in Shrewsbury on September 14.

More than 40 teams have already entered and are in training for the race, sponsored by Galliers Homes.

The event is in its 11th year and attracts teams from businesses, families, friends and organisations across the county.

It costs £300 to enter a team of four into the event – and Oswestry's British Ironwork Centre has entered four teams on its own.

Each person takes it in turn to paddle the coracle across the Severn in a fast and furious relay.

The event centres around the Pengwern Boat Club and provides a spectacle for visitors to the town's Quarry Park.

Kate Thomas, Macmillan Cancer Support's Shropshire fundraising manager, said: "The race is now in its 11th year, having to date raised more than £230,000 for our charity in the county. The aim is to smash quarter of a million pounds this year."

Jayney Davies, chair of the race organisers, said: "Last year the coracle race was over subscribed and it looks like 2018 will be the same, so we are asking teams to get their entries in quick."

The round coracles were designed to be carried on a person's back, with a chest strap holding the boat steady.

The lightweight boat was traditionally used in Shropshire, Scotland, south Wales, Ireland and parts of west and south west England.

For further information about the Macmillan Cancer Support Coracle World Championships, go to coracleworldchampionship.co.uk

Bosses happy with Future Fit progress

HEALTH bosses say they are happy with how the Future Fit public consultation is proceeding – but they still want more people to give their views by filling out a survey.

It comes after the consultation mid-point review revealed only about 0.5 per cent of the population had responded.

But Dr Julian Povey, chairman of Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, said this was in keeping with similar public consultations which have happened around the county.

However, he said there were plans to try and target "hard to reach" groups.

He added: "Our consultation is in keeping with public sector consultations. One per cent would still be quite a lot of people, but we would always like more to fill in the survey."

Although two options have been put forward in the public consultation, Dr Povey stressed it should not be seen as a 'vote'.

He said: "It's not about how many contribute, it's what they contribute."

Issues raised have been around issues of transport, emergency transfer times, finances and planned care arrangements.

At the latest meeting of the Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group's governing body, health bosses were updated on the situation and were told more than one per cent of the population served

Report by Lisa O'Brien

by Shropshire's two main hospitals have now responded to the Future Fit consultation.

Pam Schreier, head of communications and engagement for Future Fit, said that more than 5,700 people have now completed surveys.

She said many of the respondents had been over the age of 59.

More than 600 people have also attended public exhibition events across the county and in Powys, where clinicians have been able to explain the two options put forward.

Under the plans by health bosses, there will be a single countywide emergency department based at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital or Princess Royal Hospital in Telford.

Health chiefs want to separate emergency and planned care.

The leader of Telford & Wrekin Council, Councillor Shaun Davies, has called the response rate "exceptionally poor".

Telford & Wrekin Council has now sent every household in the borough the official Future Fit survey, along with a leaflet from the authority to encourage residents to have their say.

Councillor Davies said he had been "flabbergasted" by the amount of people he had spoken to across Telford and Wrekin who did not know what Future Fit is.

Ambitious vision for community care for the county is revealed

A HOSPITAL at home service, a health crisis response team and 'step-up' beds are included in a vision for the way care will be delivered within Shropshire's communities in the future.

A shake-up of services is expected as Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group develops its 'care closer to home' model, which it says will address an 'unhealthy dependence' on hospitals.

It aims to improve health outcomes for people with multiple long-term health conditions aged 65 and over.

A new CCG report, which gives an overview of the intended care model, says there is 'no addi-

tional money to pay for this way of working'. Therefore, some existing services that it views as not 'fit for purpose' could be axed to create new ones it says will better meet the needs of patients.

However, Dr Julian Povey, chairman of Shropshire CCG, said the model will also help to reduce hospital admissions, saving money to pay for the community-based services.

The first phase of the plan has already been put in place with a frailty intervention team based at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital's A&E department.

There are further plans for a 'hospital at home' service, providing diagnostic testing and

treatment interventions, traditionally associated with care in a hospital setting, either in people's own homes or from places close-by. There are also plans to develop a health crisis response team, which could deliver both diagnostic testing and treatment within a two-hour response window. 'Step-up' beds also feature in the plans so patients can have bed-based care local to where they live, possibly in community hospitals or nursing homes.

Exact details are yet to be worked out. The care model also intends to bring local authority staff such as social workers and those employed by the NHS closer together.

Breakfasts for businesses to be held again

SUCCESSFUL business breakfast events will be held again in the autumn after a positive launch, Powys County Council has said.

A series of early morning events were held across the county giving local businesses an opportunity to meet up with the council, Welsh Government, business advisors and support organisations to discuss business opportunities.

The events proved so popular and well supported with nearly 200 local businesses attending that the county council has been asked to organise more.

The council is reviewing its purchasing processes to increase the proportion of spend with local businesses, with Business Wales on-hand to explain its approach to providing support to local businesses.

Cabinet member for regeneration Councillor Martin Weale said: "We wanted to provide a networking opportunity for local businesses to come together, meet other business owners in a friendly informal setting, hear what others are doing, make connections, share knowledge and learn from other's experience."

"It gave business owners a chance to build stronger local links, not only with local businesses, but also with the council departments that could help them."

Commissioner makes visit to custody suite

A POLICE and crime commissioner recently joined front line officers to see what life is like in a custody suite.

Dyfed-Powys Police Commissioner Dafydd Llywelyn paid an unannounced visit to Aberystwyth Custody Suite, to see first hand what life is like for officers.

More than 5,000 people are kept in Dyfed-Powys Police custody every year.

By law, all Police and Crime Commissioners must have an Independent Custody Visiting Scheme. Independent Custody Visitors visit police custody suites in pairs, unannounced to check on the welfare of detainees and to ensure that their rights are upheld.

The dedicated volunteers check on the wellbeing of detainees, and provide an independent check on the conditions in which detainees are being held within custody. They are designed to give the public reassurance that detained people are treated appropriately, fairly and respectfully within Dyfed-Powys Police custody.

In 2017/18, a total of 199 unannounced custody visits took place across the Dyfed-Powys Police force area, with 178 detainees visited. Mr Llywelyn shadowed two custody visitors during one of their unannounced visits to Aberystwyth Custody Suite.

Kitten returns to scene of rescue

A FERAL kitten saved from a hedge at last year's Royal Welsh Show has returned to the site one year on with its new owner.

The male kitten was just weeks old when it was rescued at the 2017 show by RSPCA officers Phil Lewis and Warwick Burgess.

He was given a clean bill of health by a local Bulth Wells veterinary practice, and RSPCA staff were able to immediately find the feline a new home – with a car park officer adding the lucky cat to his family.

Ben Gray – a county councillor in the Plymouth ward on Vale of Glamorgan Council – supervises a public park and ride at the showground, and met up with RSPCA staff at the 2018 show, 12 months from adopting the kitten.

The kitten was affectionately nicknamed 'Hedge' after the rescue, and now goes by the title 'Oscar Hedge'.

Ben reminisced about the rescue, saying: "I was supervising North 17 car park and suddenly all my staff are chasing around a little animal on the floor. It turned out to be a kitten."

"We managed to keep him in one place in a hedge and the RSPCA came out and rescued him. It was a great job."

"He's doing really well. We already have a cat in the house, Rolo, who has accepted Oscar Hedge into the family."

Survey asks for views on health consultation

COUNCILLORS in Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin are calling on people to give their views on the Future Fit consultation.

Members of the councils' Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee have launched a survey asking individuals and organisations to comment on their own experiences of the consultation process.

They hope it will help them to understand how the Future Fit consultation has worked, and whether it has been accessible and engaged with all communities.

They also stressed that it is not duplicating the Future Fit consultation, which is asking people to comment on the proposals to create a single emergency department at either the Royal

Shrewsbury Hospital or the Princess Royal Hospital in Telford. The other hospital would then be the base for planned care serving Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, and Mid Wales.

A statement from the committee said: "This information will be used by the committee to inform their thinking and the questions and discussions that will take place with Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Group, and Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust."

The launch of the consultation comes after the committee met with Future Fit bosses and asked them to comment on the consultation as it reached its midpoint review. In particular,

they asked for more information about groups that had not been engaged with and what work is being done to include them as the consultation enters its second half.

The meeting also heard Telford councillor Stephen Burrell say he was "disturbed" by the response to the consultation at its midpoint with just 0.5 per cent of those served by the two hospitals having taken part.

The council survey closes on September 17, bosses at the local authorities say.

It is available at shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/shropshire-council-and-telford-and-wrekin-council-joint-health-overview-and-scrutiny-committee/

August 18



Pointless Celebrities
7.50pm
Mick Foster, Tony Allen, Pauline Black, Harvey, Jonathan Ansell, Faryl Smith, Lee Latchford-Evans and Michelle Heaton compete in a music edition of the general knowledge quiz.



West Is West
11.15pm
A traditionally minded Muslim father in 1970s Salford takes his reluctant youngest son to Pakistan so he can reconnect with his roots. Comedy sequel, with Om Puri and Aqib Khan.



WOS Wrestling
5pm
Spectacular wrestling action with the stars of WOS. Presented by Rachel Stringer, with commentary from Stu Bennett, Alex Shane and SoCal Val.



Escape to the Chateau: DIY
5.35pm
Dick Strawbridge follows the fortunes of Mandy and Steve, who wish to build a swimming pool to entice more paying guests to their cliff-edge chateau in the Dordogne.



Blind Date
8pm
One of this week's contestants brings his dog into the studio to help him choose between three women who are also accompanied by their pets. Last in the series.

BBC1

6.00

Breakfast.

10.00

Saturday Kitchen Live. Andi Oliver hosts the cookery show, joined by restaurateur Russell Norman and chef Norbert Niederkofler. Singer Gabrielle faces her food heaven or hell, and there are archive clips.

11.30

Nadiya's Family Favourites. Nadiya Hussain demonstrates quick recipes for days when everything is a bit hectic, including mango and lime lassi bircher, a spin on prawn toast, and seafood crumble. (R)

12.00

Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests look ahead to the weekend's matches, which include Chelsea v Arsenal and Brighton & Hove Albion v Manchester United.

1.00

BBC News; Weather.

1.15

Athletics: Birmingham Grand Prix. Gabby Logan presents live coverage of the 12th round of the Diamond League season, where several newly crowned European champions are expected to be in action.

4.30

Final Score. Eilidh Barbour presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League, EFL and Scotland.

5.15

Wedding Day Winners. Lorraine Kelly and Rob Beckett host the game show in which couples compete for the chance to win a televised wedding and a dream honeymoon. Last in the series.

6.15

Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out. The duo embark on their first adventure, taking a trip to the moon when their cheese supplies run out. Animation, with the voice of Peter Sallis. (R)

6.40

BBC News.

6.50

Midlands Today; Weather.

7.00

Impossible Celebrities. New series. Star-studded version of the quiz in which contestants compete for the chance to win £10,000, with a single "impossible" answer knocking them out. Rick Edwards hosts.

7.50

Pointless Celebrities. Mick Foster, Tony Allen, Pauline Black, Harvey, Jonathan Ansell, Faryl Smith, Lee Latchford-Evans and Michelle Heaton compete in a music edition of the general knowledge quiz. (R)

8.40

Casualty. The fall-out from the recent tragedy affects the whole department. Dylan is reunited with Ciara, who is struggling to control both her own alcoholism and that of a friend.

9.30

Mrs Brown's Boys. Agnes tries to persuade the health visitor Grandad is in need of respite care – so she can go on holiday – and receives ominous news from beyond the grave from her late husband. (R)

10.00

BBC News; National Lottery Update.

10.20

Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights from the Premier League, including Chelsea v Arsenal at Stamford Bridge and Leicester City v Wolverhampton Wanderers at the King Power Stadium.

11.45

The Rugby Codebreakers. Carolyn Hitt presents a look at the Welsh rugby players during the 100-year amateur era who broke what was considered a taboo by many to switch codes from union to league.

12.45

Weather for the Week Ahead.

12.50

BBC News.

BBC2

6.35

Marrying Mum and Dad. Featuring three toy-obsessed wedding planners.

7.05

Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. Barefoot water-skiing and some stunning stunt work on a BMX. (R)

7.35

The Dengineers. A Manchester United fan received a football-based den.

8.05

Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. The asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs.

8.35

David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. Animals able to expand their bodies.

8.55

Nature's Miracle Babies. Work being done to save species on the brink of extinction. (R)

10.00

Natural World. How animals cope with mountain life in the Himalayas. (R)

11.00

Miniature Britain. A close-up view of the natural world. (R)

12.00

Nigel Slater: Eating Together. The food writer takes a culinary tour of Britain. (R)

12.30

Great British Menu. Three chefs from the North East region compete. (R)

1.00

Great British Menu. The chefs present their unique fish dishes. (R)

1.30

Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in Faversham, Lytham St Annes and New Southgate. (R)

2.30

Garden Rescue. A bare garden in Farnham, Surrey. (R)

3.15

Escape to the Country. Alistair Appleton is on a property-searching mission in North Devon. (R)

4.00

Flog It! Making a profit at auction. (R)

4.50

Inventing the Impossible: The Big Life Fix. Helping an 11-year-old with Tourette's control his tics and behavioural issues. Last in the series. (R)

5.50

Reinventing the Royals. Part one of two. The monarchy's relationship with the media over the past 20 years. (R)

6.50

Proms Extra. Katie Derham is joined by David Owen Norris and Lauren Zhang, who performs at the end of the show. Featuring a discussion of famous pieces by Grieg, Ravel and Debussy.

7.30

Dad's Army. Pike borrows Mainwaring's new staff car to take his girlfriend to the cinema – but it breaks down, leaving the lovebirds stranded in the middle of nowhere. (R)

8.00

Blitz: The Bombs That Changed Britain. The story of a bomb that fell on Jellicoe Street in Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire, a community of ship builders and factory workers who worked in difficult conditions. (R)

9.00

Qi XL. Sandi Toksvig invites Aisling Bea, Corey Taylor and Ross Noble and Alan Davies to answer questions associated with nousey and noisy in an extended edition of the comedy panel game. (R)

9.45

The Boy with the Topknot. A second-generation Indian plans to tell his parents he does not want an arranged marriage – but instead learns a painful family secret. Biographical drama, starring Sacha Dhawan. (R)

11.15

FILM: West Is West (2010). A traditionally minded Muslim father in 1970s Salford takes his reluctant youngest son to Pakistan so he can reconnect with his roots. Comedy sequel, with Om Puri and Aqib Khan.

12.50

Picnic at Hanging Rock. (R)

1.40

This Is BBC2.

ITV

6.00

CITV: Sooty 6.10 Make It Pop 6.35 Dino Dana 6.50 Mission Employable 6.55 The Oddbods Show 7.05 NinjaGo: Possession 7.30 ToonMarty 7.40 ToonMarty 7.55 Drop Dead Weird

8.25

ITV News.

8.30

Zoe Ball On Saturday. With guests Harry Judd and Kate Nash.

9.25

James Martin's Saturday Morning. The TV chef invites Michael Parkinson and Kenny Atkinson into his own home as he makes fish and chips, parkin and roast lamb, and prepares another dish in Jason Plato's racing car. (R)

11.20

James Martin's American Adventure. The TV chef explores Louisiana's state capital, Baton Rouge. (R)

11.50

Eat, Shop, Save. A North East family with a serious food waste problem. Last in the series. (R)

12.20

Love Your Garden. Featuring a Preston family facing an uncertain future. (R)

1.20

£10k Holiday Home. Julia Bradbury waits for the legal checks on her new home in Portugal. (R)

1.55

ITV News and Weather; Weather.

2.10

The Chase. Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize. (R)

3.15

FILM: The Scorpion King (2002). A warlord resolves to rid the desert of its last remaining tribes, prompting them to seek the aid of a legendary assassin. Fantasy adventure, with Dwayne Johnson and Steven Brand.

5.00

WOS Wrestling. Spectacular wrestling action.

6.00

ITV News and Weather.

6.15

ITV News Central; Weather.

6.30

Japandemonium. A review of the best Japanese TV, including Lo-Rider Hot Noodle Rodeo, and the infamous slippery stairs and dizzy lift ball catch games.

7.00

Big Star's Little Star. Stephen Mulhern hosts the entertainment show in which the children of Ken Bruce, Faye Tozer and Jodie Kidd spill the beans about their famous parents.

8.00

FILM: The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers (2002). Frodo and Sam's quest to destroy the ring brings more peril when they come face to face with its former owner. Part two of the fantasy trilogy, starring Elijah Wood and Sean Astin.

11.20

ITV News and Weather; Weather.

11.35

Play to the Whistle. Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show, with guests Piers Morgan, Danny Cipriani and Katherine Ryan joining the regulars. Last in the series. (R)

12.20

WOS Wrestling. Spectacular wrestling action with the stars of WOS. Presented by Rachel Stringer, with commentary from Stu Bennett, Alex Shane and SoCal Val. (R)

1.10

Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.

3.00

Eternal Glory. The five remaining contestants face a gruelling test of aerobic stamina, an explosive game of endurance and a head to head contest of reaction speed. (R)

Channel 4

6.05

Trail Running: Tenerife Bluetrail. Action from the trail running event.

6.35

The King of Queens. Carrie goes for a job interview. (R)

7.00

The King of Queens. Carrie tries to expand her social life. (R)

7.25

Everybody Loves Raymond. A desperate Ray tries to meet the New York Mets 1969 team. (R)

7.50

Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray asks Debra for more room in bed. (R)

8.20

Frasier. A new radio personality becomes the talk of the town. (R)

8.50

Frasier. Bulldog has a brush with fame. (R)

9.20

Frasier. The psychiatrist feels insecure. (R)

9.55

The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon's mother comes to visit. (R)

10.25

The Big Bang Theory. The gang celebrates Halloween. (R)

10.50

The Simpsons. The family reminisces about days gone by. (R)

11.20

The Simpsons. The family visits a scary theme park. (R)

11.55

Come Dine with Me. A dinner-party battle in Greater Manchester. (R)

12.55

Four in a Bed. The competition kicks off at the Cholmeley Arms in Burton-le-Coggles. (R)

1.25

Four in a Bed. Joe Spencer and Louise Woodcock host from Islington Mill B&B in Salford. (R)

2.00

Four in a Bed. Host Peter Morris welcomes guests to the Pebbles B&B in Devon. (R)

2.30

Four in a Bed. The final visit is to the Tarr Farm Inn on Exmoor. (R)

3.00

Four in a Bed. John and Lesley want to get to the bottom of Peter's comments. (R)

3.30

A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. A holiday home in Spain's Costa del Sol. (R)

4.30

The People's Vet. Lisa makes it her mission to nurture poorly hedgehog Spike to full health.

5.35

Escape to the Chateau: DIY. A couple make plans to enhance their property by building a swimming pool. (R)

6.30

Channel 4 News.

7.00

A Year in the New Forest. The forest faces its hottest early summer in decades, which proves a challenge for some animals, but a blessing for others – particularly butterflies. Last in the series.

8.00

Saving Planet Earth: Fixing a Hole. Documentary telling the story of the first man-made threat to the planet's environment – the hole in the ozone layer.

9.00

FILM: Terminator Genisys (2015). A time traveller sent on a rescue mission discovers a plot to change history beyond recognition. Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger and Emilia Clarke.

11.25

FILM: Sin City: A Dame to Kill For (2014). Compilation of four stories of crime and betrayal set in a dangerous city. Crime thriller sequel based on the comic-book series, starring Eva Green and Mickey Rourke.

1.20

The Last Leg. (R)

2.15

The Crystal Maze. (R)

3.10

Hollyoaks. (R)

5.15

Lost and Found. (R)

Channel 5

6.00

Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wisper 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Pupppies 6.40 Seaside Antics 6.45 Oily the Little White Van 6.50 Simon 7.00 Peppa Pig 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.15 Thomas & Friends 7.30 Fireman Sam 7.45 Rusty Rivets 8.00 Paw Patrol 8.15 Pirata & Capitano 8.30 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.50 Floogals 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.15 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.45 Peppa Pig 9.55 Peppa Pig

10.00

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R)

10.35

Access.

10.40

Police Interceptors. (R)

11.25

Police Interceptors. (R)

12.20

Police Interceptors. Dog handler Bob hunts down a suspected knifeman. (R)

1.20

Police Interceptors. Jenno joins the takedown of a man suspected to be armed. (R)

2.20

Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. A landlady gets a shock when she finally gains access to her property. (R)

3.15

Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. A young mum locked out of her own home. (R)

4.15

Rich House, Poor House. Families from opposite ends of the wealth and class divide swap homes for a week. (R)

5.15

Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! The agents try to recover more than £12,000 owed by a jeweller. (R)

6.10

Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! The officers try to recover £13,000 owed by a high-performance car dealer in Birmingham, and in Wolverhampton the agents chase nearly £2,000 owed to a car hire company. (R)

7.00

Cricket on 5. England v India. Highlights from the opening day of the Third Test, which takes place at Trent Bridge, as the five-match series continues.

7.55

5 News Weekend.

8.00

Blind Date. One of this week's contestants brings his dog into the studio to help him choose between three women who are also accompanied by their pets. Last in the series.

9.00

Gino's Win Your Wish List. Gino D'Acampo hosts the game show in which a family from Cardiff compete to win a holiday in Vietnam, as well as assorted other prizes, including a home makeover.

10.00

Celebrity Big Brother. Highlights of the housemates' first full day at the mercy of Big Brother, where it remains to be seen who is playing up for the benefit of the viewing public.

11.05

Best of Bad TV: Most Shocking Ever. A romp through the most inappropriate, outrageous, ill-conceived and downright cringe-inducing moments that made it to air, featuring contributions from some of those involved. (R)

12.00

SuperCasino.

3.10

Britain's Parking Hell. (R)

4.00

Britain by Bike with Larry & George Lamb. (R)

4.45

House Doctor. (R)

5.10

Great Scientists. (R)

5.35

Wildlife SOS. (R)

August 19



Fake or Fortune?
9pm
Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould must prove that a sketchbook is the work of a young Toulouse-Lautrec, overturning a decision made by a committee of experts on the artist.



Just Jim
11.15pm
Premiere. A lonely Welsh teenager befriends his mysterious American neighbour, who gives him some lessons in how to be cool. Comedy drama, starring Emile Hirsch.



The Chase
5pm
Bradley Walsh presents as four contestants answer general knowledge questions and work as a team to take on ruthless quiz genius the Chaser and secure a cash prize.



Hidden Britain by Drone
8pm
Tony Robinson sends aerial cameras into Britain's largest cave system and explores the secret beehives set up on the roof of Fortnum & Mason in the heart of London.



Celebrity Big Brother
9pm
A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances.

| BBC1 | |
|-------|--|
| 6.00 | Breakfast. |
| 9.00 | Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights from the Premier League, including Chelsea v Arsenal at Stamford Bridge and Leicester City v Wolverhampton Wanderers at the King Power Stadium. (R) |
| 10.25 | Sunday Morning Live. Sean Fletcher and Cherry Healey are joined by a panel of guests to discuss the big talking points from the week. |
| 11.25 | Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in south London, Cumbria and Derby set to be auctioned. |
| 12.00 | Animals Behaving Badly. Liz Bonnin meets the animals going to extreme measures to survive, and reveals the some of the surprising scientific discoveries behind their behaviour. Last in the series. (R) |
| 1.00 | BBC News; Weather. |
| 1.15 | Bargain Hunt. The bargain hunters join Tim Wonnacott at Portobello Road market. (R) |
| 1.45 | Songs of Praise. Rev Kate Bottley visits the Great Yorkshire Show. |
| 2.20 | Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould examine a still life that may have been painted by William Nicholson, but could be from one of the 20th century's greatest art crimes. (R) |
| 3.20 | Eat Well for Less? Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin help a Blackpool family lower their food bill. (R) |
| 4.20 | Pointless Celebrities. A radio-themed edition of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz. (R) |
| 5.05 | FILM: Swallows and Amazons (2016). Premiere. Two rival bands of children compete for ownership of an island, but must work together when a bigger challenge arises. Period drama, with Rafe Spall and Kelly Macdonald. |
| 6.35 | BBC News. |
| 6.50 | Midlands Today; Weather. |
| 7.00 | Countryfile Live. This year's event comes from Blenheim Palace, where Matt Baker tries his hand at scurry racing and Ellie Harrison meets a taxidermist who does not use real animals in his art. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. |
| 8.00 | Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team return to Helmingham Hall in Suffolk, where items include a sapphire ring and a sketch by Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. |
| 9.00 | Fake or Fortune? Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould must prove that a sketchbook is the work of a young Toulouse-Lautrec, overturning a decision made by a committee of experts on the artist. |
| 10.00 | BBC News. |
| 10.20 | Midlands Today; Weather. |
| 10.30 | Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman introduces highlights of Brighton & Hove Albion v Manchester United at the Amex Stadium and Manchester City v Huddersfield Town at the Etihad Stadium. |
| 11.30 | Supermarket Shopping Secrets. Gregg Wallace goes behind the scenes with Britain's biggest food retailers to find out how they are using science and technology to stay ahead of the competition. (R) |
| 12.30 | Weather for the Week Ahead. |
| 12.35 | BBC News. |

| BBC2 | |
|-------|---|
| 6.20 | Coast. (R) |
| 6.50 | A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) |
| 7.35 | Gardeners' World. The South Asian influences on British gardens. (R) |
| 8.35 | Countryfile. Rural developments from Nottinghamshire. (R) |
| 9.30 | The Beechgrove Garden. |
| 10.00 | Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series. |
| 11.30 | Great British Menu. (R) |
| 12.00 | Great British Menu. The North East chefs prepare desserts. (R) |
| 12.30 | Great British Menu. The North East region's two highest-scoring chefs compete. (R) |
| 1.00 | Hairy Bikers' Best of British. Si King and Dave Myers celebrate the nation's shellfish. (R) |
| 2.00 | Sailing: World Championships Highlights. Action from the event in Aarhus, Denmark. |
| 3.00 | Motorsport: Ulster GP Highlights. Highlights of the event. |
| 4.00 | Seven Wonders of the Commonwealth. A journey through some of the Commonwealth's natural beauty spots. (R) |
| 5.00 | Tribes, Predators & Me. A nomad family who hunt with golden eagles in the Mongolian mountains. (R) |
| 6.00 | Fighting for Air. Dr Xand van Tulleken conducts the first ever large-scale experiment using people to try and bring about a quantifiable improvement in air quality for a single day. (R) |
| 7.00 | Inside the Factory. Gregg Wallace explores a Nottinghamshire factory that makes 250,000 jars of curry sauce every day, while Cherry Healey is in Guntur, the chilli capital of India. (R) |
| 8.00 | Dragons' Den. Deborah Meaden, Peter Jones, Touker Suleyman, Tej Lalvani and Jenny Campbell assess plans for African coffee ceremonies, colourful wetsuits, fake tan and alternative energy. |
| 9.00 | Eight Go Rallying: The Road to Saigon. New series. Four teams of celebrities compete in the Endurance Rally Association's Road to Saigon event, travelling 3000km through Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam. |
| 10.00 | Supercar, Superfam. New series. Documentary series following two brothers from a British-Pakistani family who own a workshop customising and revamping some of the world's most powerful sports cars. |
| 10.30 | Man Like Mobeen. Sitcom about a reformed drug dealer trying to look after his younger sister. Mobeen faces a moral quandary after an unexpected visit from the armed police. (R) |
| 10.50 | Man Like Mobeen. Ahs is suspended from school for fighting, and Mobeen's uncles urge him to consider an arranged marriage to provide the girl with a much-needed female role model. (R) |
| 11.15 | FILM: Just Jim (2015). Premiere. A lonely Welsh teenager befriends his mysterious American neighbour, who gives him some lessons in how to be cool. Comedy drama, starring Emile Hirsch and Craig Roberts. |
| 12.35 | Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) |
| 1.30 | Sign Zone: Holby City. (R) |
| 2.30 | This Is BBC2. |

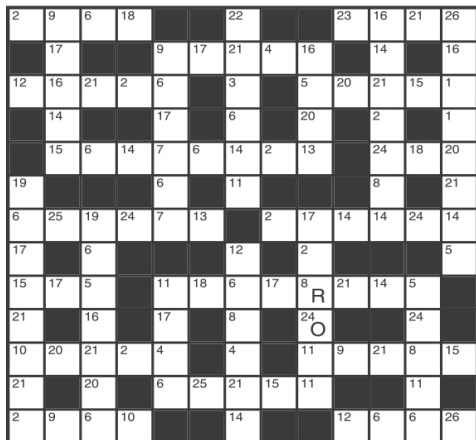
| ITV | |
|-------|--|
| 6.00 | CITV: Sooty 6.10 Make It Pop 6.35 Dino Dana 6.50 Mission Employable 6.55 The Oddbods Show 7.05 NinjaGo: Possession 7.30 ToonMarty 7.40 ToonMarty 7.55 Drop Dead Weird |
| 8.25 | ITV News. |
| 8.30 | Zoe Ball on Sunday. With Jake Shears and Meera Syal. |
| 9.25 | Japandemonium. Featuring Lo-Rider Hot Noodle Rodeo. (R) |
| 9.50 | Cannonball. Andrew Flintoff hosts the action-packed game show, in which contestants tackle water-based obstacle course challenges in the hope of claiming the Cannonball Cup. (R) |
| 10.50 | Ninja Warrior UK. Obstacle-course challenge, with Ben Shephard, Rochelle Humes and Chris Kamara. (R) |
| 11.50 | WOS Wrestling. Spectacular wrestling action. (R) |
| 12.50 | ITV News and Weather; Weather. |
| 1.00 | Big Star's Little Star. With Ken Bruce, Faye Tozer and Jodie Kidd. (R) |
| 2.00 | Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. A river walk in Devon. (R) |
| 2.30 | Paul O'Grady's Little Heroes. Paul meets a nurse who has had her own 14-week-old son admitted into the hospital. (R) |
| 3.00 | Tenable. Quiz, hosted by Warwick Davis. (R) |
| 4.00 | Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. With Katie Price, Alison Hammond and Marc Baylis. (R) |
| 5.00 | The Chase. Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R) |
| 6.00 | ITV News and Weather. |
| 6.15 | ITV News Central; Weather. |
| 6.25 | FILM: The Amazing Spider-Man 2 (2014). The superhero battles a foe with electrical powers, while an old friend presents an even greater threat. Action adventure sequel, with Andrew Garfield and Emma Stone. |
| 9.00 | Unforgotten. The team appears to have all the evidence needed to convict Tim, but things do not go to plan, while a new discovery leaves Cassie devastated. Last in the series. |
| 10.05 | ITV News and Weather; Weather. |
| 10.20 | easyJet: Inside the Cockpit. In Paris, newly qualified pilot Ryan Clyde faces the prospect of conducting his first night landing, while back in the UK, cadet Sophie learns how to deal with G-forces. (R) |
| 11.15 | Tonight at the London Palladium. The variety show from the West End theatre continues, featuring the Chinese State Circus, singer Barry Manilow, comedian Pippa Evans, and Bananarama. Presented by Bradley Walsh. (R) |
| 12.10 | Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. |
| 3.00 | Motorsport UK. Highlights from Snetterton, featuring round nine of the Porsche Carrera Cup GB, and round 11 of the Renault Clio Cup UK. With commentary by Richard John Neil. (R) |
| 3.50 | ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. |
| 5.05 | The Jeremy Kyle Show. The host invites guests to air their differences over family and relationship issues, and provides them with his own brand of no-nonsense advice. (R) |

| Channel 4 | |
|-----------|--|
| 6.10 | Motor Sport: Caterham. Highlights from Brands Hatch. |
| 6.40 | Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. Action from the Brands Hatch GP Circuit. |
| 7.05 | Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. The World RX of Canada. |
| 8.00 | Frasier. Niles tries to ask Daphne for a date. (R) |
| 8.30 | Frasier. Rick's family traits concern Roz. (R) |
| 9.00 | Frasier. Niles and Frasier throw a singles party. (R) |
| 9.30 | Sunday Brunch. With guests William Roache and Sarah Hadland. |
| 12.30 | The Simpsons. Homer meets Mel Gibson. (R) |
| 12.55 | The Simpsons. Bart and Milhouse vie for a film role. (R) |
| 1.25 | Peng Life. With guests Professor Green and Jordan Stephens. (R) |
| 1.55 | Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer go house hunting in Northern Ireland. (R) |
| 2.55 | A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. Finding a retirement home in Menorca on a budget of £165,000. (R) |
| 3.25 | Homes by the Sea. Charlie Luxton explores residences in Sussex. (R) |
| 4.30 | FILM: The Devil Wears Prada (2006). Comedy drama, starring Meryl Streep. |
| 6.30 | Channel 4 News. |
| 7.00 | Flying Across Britain with Arthur Williams. Arthur flies across Scotland, boarding a seaplane for a trip to Loch Lomond and going in search of the wreckage of aircraft from the Second World War in Oban. |
| 8.00 | Hidden Britain by Drone. Tony Robinson sends aerial cameras into Britain's largest cave system and explores the secret beehives set up on the roof of Fortnum & Mason in the heart of London. |
| 9.00 | FILM: Bridge of Spies (2015). Premiere. A lawyer is hired to defend a Soviet spy, an assignment that leads to a prisoner exchange. Steven Spielberg's fact-based Cold War drama, with Tom Hanks and Mark Rylance. |
| 11.45 | First Dates. A 90-year-old visits the restaurant and hopes a ballroom dancing enthusiast is the woman for him, and a former brickie wonders if a glamorous PA will be his Ms Right. (R) |
| 12.45 | FILM: Still Alice (2014). A linguistics professor discovers she has early onset Alzheimer's disease shortly after celebrating her 50th birthday. Drama, starring Julianne Moore and Alec Baldwin. |
| 2.30 | Building the Dream. Charlie Luxton meets a couple building a traditional Scottish cottage in the Firth of Forth, whose ambitious plans have been jeopardised by bad weather. (R) |
| 3.25 | Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. Phil Spencer is on the Mersey, meeting a man struggling to part with his four-bedroom home, and helping a beautician living with six dogs. (R) |
| 4.20 | Lost and Found. Two strays start their rehoming journey together after being picked up by the dog warden. Lucy Alexander and Simon O'Brien follow their progress. (R) |
| 5.15 | The Posh Frock Shop. Craig helps a celebrity broadcaster find a glamorous gown for an awards event. (R) |

| Channel 5 | |
|-----------|---|
| 6.00 | Milkshake!: Little Princess 6.10 Wisper 6.20 Poppy Cat 6.30 Milkshake! Monkey 6.35 The Secret Life of Puppies 6.40 Seaside Antics 6.45 Oily the Little White Van 6.50 Simon 7.00 Peppa Pig 7.05 Paw Patrol 7.15 Thomas & Friends: Thrills and Spills 7.30 Fireman Sam 7.45 Rusty Rivets 8.00 Paw Patrol 8.15 Pirata & Capitano 8.30 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.50 Floggals 9.00 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.10 Shimmer and Shine 9.30 Digby Dragon 9.45 Peppa Pig 9.55 Peppa Pig |
| 10.00 | Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. Renet transports the team to Transylvania to stop Savanti Romero from recruiting Dracula. (R) |
| 10.35 | Holidays Make You Laugh Out Loud. Compilation of internet videos involving holidays. (R) |
| 11.20 | Police Interceptors. Jon Peacock encounters a half-naked man covered in blood in Lincoln. (R) |
| 12.15 | Police Interceptors. Dan Briggins tracks down a driver who has given him the slip in Spalding. (R) |
| 1.10 | Police Interceptors. Barry Peach apprehends a fugitive who has been using a false identity. (R) |
| 2.10 | Police Interceptors. Jenno joins the takedown of a man suspected to be armed. (R) |
| 3.10 | Police Interceptors. A have-a-go hero helps to tackle a runaway drug driver. (R) |
| 4.10 | FILM: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006). Swashbuckling adventure sequel, starring Johnny Depp. |
| 5.10 | 5 News Update. |
| 5.15 | FILM: Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (2006). Concluded. |
| 7.00 | Cricknet on 5. England v India. Highlights from the second day of the Third Test, which takes place at Trent Bridge, as the five-match series continues. |
| 7.55 | 5 News Weekend. |
| 8.00 | Greatest Ever Celebrity Wind Ups. Joe Pasquale narrates a special documentary celebrating some of the greatest pranks celebrities have managed to play on each other. (R) |
| 9.00 | Celebrity Big Brother. The ups and downs of life in the BB house as friendships and alliances are made, battle lines are drawn and arguments erupt. |
| 10.00 | FILM: Straight Outta Compton (2015). Premiere. Biopic of hip hop group N.W.A, telling the story of how they redefined the genre with hard-hitting songs about urban life. Starring O'Shea Jackson Jr and Corey Hawkins. |
| 11.05 | Access. Showbiz news and gossip. |
| 11.10 | FILM: Straight Outta Compton (2015). Concluded. |
| 1.00 | SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. |
| 3.10 | GPs: Behind Closed Doors. Two medical students gain experience of working in a GP's surgery. (R) |
| 4.00 | My Mum's Hotter Than Me! People who will stop at nothing to outdo their children or grandchildren. (R) |
| 4.45 | House Doctor. (R) |
| 5.10 | Great Scientists. (R) |
| 5.35 | Wildlife SOS. (R) |

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| Y | O | U | P | W | K | L | R | H | S | Q | A | G |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| C | D | I | Z | X | E | T | M | V | B | N | J | F |

| | |
|----|----|
| 1 | 14 |
| 2 | 15 |
| 3 | 16 |
| 4 | 17 |
| 5 | 18 |
| 6 | 19 |
| 7 | 20 |
| 8 | 21 |
| 9 | 22 |
| 10 | 23 |
| 11 | 24 |
| 12 | 25 |
| 13 | 26 |

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

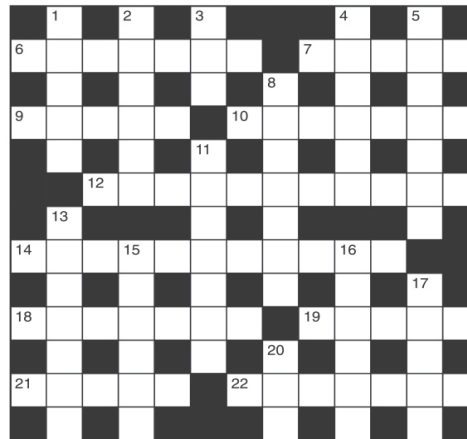
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. Arrive round the vessel to join together (7)
7. See 21 Across.
9. Almost provide protection from fallen debris (5)
10. A group of actors on strike rejected (4,3)
12. Adopt a relaxed position and tolerate a bit of banter (5,2,4)
14. Not a single mistake by the serviceman! (6,5)
18. See 16 Down.
19. Social blunder in showing affectation (5)
- 21 & 7Ac. Goes into hiding and arranges an insurance policy (5,5)
22. Inability to remember a name is changed (7)

Down

1. Soft cry of pain associated with the marsupial (5)
2. Take exception to the thing (6)
3. See 20 Down.
- 4 & 17Dn. This contains an amount of spirit to go with it (6,2,3)
5. Politely ask about a search (7)
8. Moving house - you'll need a motor and a pantechon (7)
11. Tacit description of postponed lawsuit (7)
13. Unsatisfactory statute, but it offered some relief (4,3)
15. Fat goat (6)
- 16 & 18Ac. Chief Scribes? (6,7)
17. See 4 Down.
- 20 & 3Dn. Threaten the little brat with death! (6)



Quick Clues:

Across

6. Sportive (7)
7. Enchant (5)
9. Wide (5)
10. Pacify (7)
12. Banishment (11)
14. Allowable (11)
18. Stockings (7)
19. Drive (5)
21. Browbeat (5)
22. Tire (7)

Down

1. Plank (5)
2. Compassionate (6)
3. Muzzle (3)
4. Menace (6)
5. Liberty (7)
8. Shorten (7)
11. Associate (7)
13. Seemliness (7)
15. Principally (6)
16. Clear (6)
17. Meeting place (5)
20. Wages (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 |
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 9 |
| 7 | 2 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 4 |
| 3 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 8 | 2 |
| 9 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 1 |
| 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 6 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Come to rest; 7 Align; 8 Minaret; 10 Lose one's; 11 Step; 13 Damask; 15 Itches; 17 Wife; 18 Turncoat; 21 Yule-log; 22 Apace; 23 Friendless. Down: 1 Coins; 2 MongOOSE; 3 Temper; 4 Ring; 5 Stretch; 6 Called away; 9 Type-setter; 12 Stone age; 14 Muffler; 16 Purged; 19 Opals; 20 Flee. QUICK - Across: 1 Stupendous; 7 Chart; 8 Contact; 10 Evermore; 11 Pair; 13 Treble; 15 Cinema; 17 Away; 18 Response; 21 Explore; 22 Argue; 23 Persistent. Down: 1 Stale; 2 Untimely; 3 Escort; 4 Done; 5 Unaware; 6 Accentuate; 9 Threatened; 12 Displace; 14 Example; 16 Recess; 19 Night; 20 Toss.

Quiz

1. To which collection of stories does How The Leopard Got His Spots belong?
2. Which city is at the centre of the Asian dollar market?
3. Which former tennis star took Harry Carpenter's place at Wimbledon?
4. Which silk fabric's name is derived from the Persian for 'spun'?
5. Who was Henry VIII's last wife?
6. Who is the chief god of Scandinavian mythology?
7. What nationality was Mata Hari?
8. Of which country are the Chatham Islands part?
9. What sort of creature is a knot?
10. What do the letters J.P. stand for?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Parsifal and Lohengrin; 2 0; 3 Carbon; 4 The Atlantic; 5 Rembrandt; 6 Office of Fair Trading; 7 Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin; 8 Epilepsy; 9 Dennis Potter; 10 Honduras.

Niner: SHOWERING

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

79228
92321
62547

gives a Biblical character,
gives a second Biblical character,
gives a third Biblical character.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

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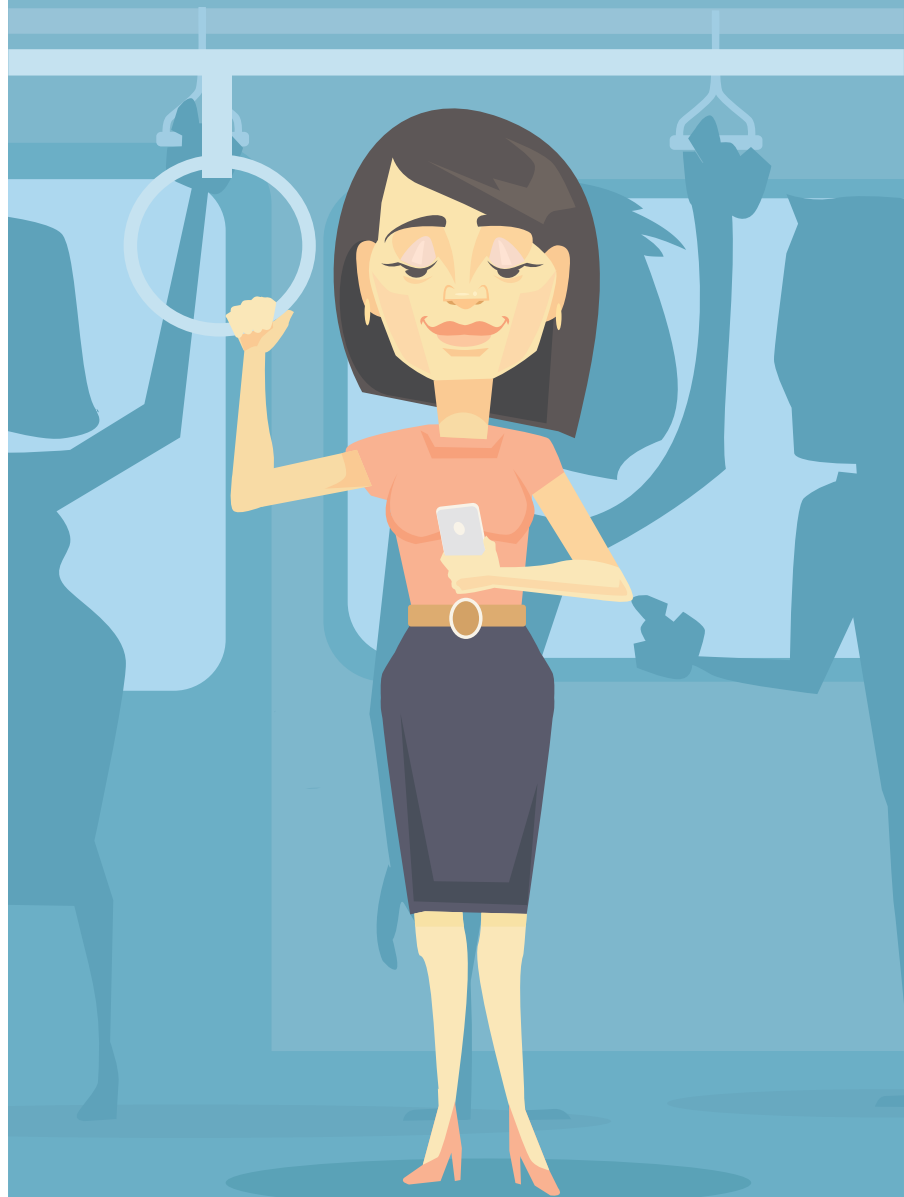
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No ordinary pick-up, it's a Mercedes

By Graham Breeze

There's no doubt whatsoever in my mind that the Mercedes-Benz X-Class is the best looking pick-up truck on UK roads.

After a week behind the wheel I was starting to tire of explaining to friends and strangers that this really was a Mercedes and why the company felt the need to be in the pick-up sector at all – there was so much interest in the model.

The X-Class was initially offered with a choice of two engines – the X 220 d 4Matic 4-cylinder 2.3l diesel with common-rail and turbocharger, offering 163hp (120kW), or the X 250 d 4Matic 4-cylinder 2.3l diesel with common-rail and twin-stage turbocharger, offering 190hp (140kW). There's now a 350 version too.

We tested the X250d 4Matic Power option with seven speed automatic transmission and selectable all-wheel drive with low-range and drive selection modes which weighed in at close to £42,000 thanks to a list of optional features including Command Online, style packaging, leather upholstery, a winter package and metallic paint.

So you start to get the picture that this is no ordinary pick-up even though it shares a platform developed by the Renault-Nissan alliance and that means heavy influences from the successful Nissan Navara.

Bosses say there isn't a part of the vehicle that hasn't been influenced in some way by Mercedes and both inside and outside the quality and luxury aspects are evident for all to see. The bold Mercedes grille and front badging soon let you know which stable this model came from and chrome inserts to the front bumper are also attractive. And when you stand the X250 next to a Navara you see that there's a wider track and sculptured flared arches to ensure road presence.

X-Class Power models are offered with 18-inch six-spoke light-alloy wheels in Himalaya grey, as standard.

Customers can choose from three distinct model lines to suit different lifestyles and work environments: the Pure basic variant for classic robust use, Progressive for heavy requirements in terms of quality feel and comfort, and



Sculptured flared arches ensure road presence

Power as the high-end variant for urban lifestyles. Like all Mercedes-Benz vehicles, the X-Class stands out for its safety equipment. As standard, the X-Class offers: driver and passenger airbags and thorax bags, window bags on the A-D pillar, driver knee bag, Active Brake Assist (radar-based autonomous emergency braking), Lane Keeping Assist, Traffic Sign Assist, Hill Start Assist, Reversing Camera, Anti-theft protection package, ECO start/stop function and ESP (Trailer Stability Assist can be added as an option).

The Power alternative on test came in conjunction with the 250 d 4MATIC engine and featured painted bumpers with simulated under guard in chrome; a rear bumper in chrome with integrated step; fog lights with chrome surround; shoulder line trim strips in chrome and LED high-performance headlights.

Inside, the Power line comes with eight-way electrically adjustable driver and front passenger seats as standard, with leather and microfibre upholstery, with a leather dashboard with topstitching, complimented by a black, high-gloss interior trim. The Audio 20 CD infotainment system is offered as standard across all models, with seven-inch high definition screen, rotary controller with touchpad, Bluetooth audio and media interface, with DAB



There's no doubt in my mind that the Mercedes-Benz X-Class is the best looking pick-up truck on UK roads

digital radio and pre-installation for Garmin MAP PILOT included.

Also standard is Mercedes-me-Connect services, including call automatic emergency response, breakdown and maintenance management. Powered by a 2.3 diesel unit the X250 averages a claimed 35.8mpg and emits 207 CO₂g/km – though the model on test proved a little more thirsty.

The overriding question faced by Mercedes is whether buyers will be convinced to cough up the extra money. After all there are some pretty good alternatives in the sector already and do you really need such luxury on a pick-up? There could also be the threat that Mercedes buyers may simply switch to the X-Class, which would defeat the company's objective of winning a slice of the market. Only time will tell.



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| 05 JAGUAR XK8 Low Mileage, Silver, MUST BE SEEN | EPOA |
| 07 JAGUAR S TYPE 2.7TD Auto, Blue, Leather | SOLD |
| 08 JAGUAR XF SPORT, 2.7 TD Auto, Champagne Met, leather, 50k | £8975 |

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| 16 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTi 136 Techline, Grey Met, 8k | SOLD |
| 14 FORD FOCUS ZETEC, NAVIGATOR, Auto, Black, 28k | £7950 |
| 11 NISSAN QASHQAI ACENTA, 51k, Deep Red Met | £7655 |
| 08 VW JETTA SE TDI 140, Black Service History | SOLD |
| 61 BMW 730d, M SPORT AUTO 3.0 DIESEL, stunning looks, Auto | £13875 |
| 60 VW Polo 1.2, 5 door, Silver, low mileage | £4499 |
| 06 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA Active, low mileage, beautiful car | SOLD |
| 09 VAUXHALL ASTRA DESIGN 1.3, Silver, Beautiful Condition, MP3 Player | £2925 |
| 56 TOYOTA YARIS T SPIRIT 1.3, Silver, Beautiful Condition, MP3 Player | £2875 |
| 54 FORD FIESTA FLAME 5-dr, Silver | £2495 |
| 08 FIAT PUNTO Sporting 1.1 Jet | £2495 |
| 57 FORD FUSION TDCI, low tax, nice proper car | SOLD |
| 07 RENAULT CLIO, Campus, Silver, 3 door | £1685 |
| 03 TOYOTA YARIS, colour collection, 3 door | £1295 |
| 52 VAUXHALL CORSA AUTO, Red, only 33k miles | £1225 |
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CONVERTIBLES

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| 03 FORD STREET KA Blue Convertible | £1795 |
| 04 VAUXHALL TIGRA SPORT, Silver | £1295 |

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| 11 RENAULT TRAFFIC DCI 150, White, Very Clean | £5,195+vat |
| 58 LANDROVER FREELAND HSE, Diesel, lots of history, Grey Met. | £7895 |
| 11 PEUGEOT PARTNER, Diesel, SLD | £4475 |
| 04 RENAULT KANGOO TREKKA 4x4 | £1395 |
| W HONDA CRV, new MOT, drives well, just in part-ex | £1295 |

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| W BMW 318 Saloon, Lots of History, Previously Supplied by us | £995 |
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| 03 NISSAN ALMERA, new MOT | £850 |
| 51 VAUXHALL COMBO VAN | £850 |

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| 13 NISSAN QASHQAI 360 5 DOOR HATCHBACK, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY 62K | £9,500 |
| 15 RENAULT CLIO HATCHBACK TCE 90 DYNAMIQUE GT LINE SPORT KIT MAX, 5 DOOR, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX 26K | £7,995 |
| 62 NISSAN NOTE AUTOMATIC 1.6 N TEC-SPECIAL EDITION, MET. BLUE, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 15K | £7,250 |
| 14 FIAT 500 C LOUNGE CONVERTIBLE, WHITE WITH RED ROOF, ALLOY WHEELS, CLIMATE CONTROL, SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX 27K | SOLD |
| 62 KIA SOUL CRDI, SILVER, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 32K | £6,695 |
| 11 VOLKSWAGEN POLO SEL TDI 90 1.6, 5 DOOR, SILVER, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY, £30 ROAD TAX 58K | £6,495 |
| 60 VAUXHALL INSIGNIA SRI CDTI, GREY, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITONING, SERVICE HISTORY 41K | £6,195 |
| 13 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION PLUS 16V, 5 DOOR, BLACK, SERVICE HISTORY 42K | £5,995 |
| 63 VAUXHALL CORSA 1.4 SXI, 5 DOOR, GREY, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 34K | £5,995 |
| 15 PEUGEOT 108 ACTIVE, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, £0 ROAD TAX 27K | £5,995 |
| 64 VAUXHALL CORSA EXCITE 1.2, 3 DOOR, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., BLUETOOTH, SERVICE HISTORY 17K | £5,895 |
| 60 FORD FIESTA ZETEC, 5 DOOR, SILVER, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 46K | £5,295 |
| 09 FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 1.6, 5 DOOR, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 53K | £5,184 |
| 62 FORD KA ZETEC 1.2, SILVER, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING, £30 ROAD TAX, 10K | £4,995 |
| 10 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 SRI, 5 DOOR, SILVER, FULL SERVICE HISTORY 58K | £4,995 |
| 12 FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1.4, 5 DOOR, BLUE, SERVICE HISTORY 60K | £4,975 |
| 13 FIAT PUNTO JET BLACK, 3 DOOR, BLACK, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CONDITIONING 34K | £4,895 |
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| 10 RENAULT CLIO1.6 INTIALE T-TOM, AUTOMATIC MET. RED, LEATHER SEATS, AIR CONDITIONING, SERVICE HISTORY 46K | £4,495 |
| 60 FIAT 500 LOUNGE 0.9 TWIN AIR, BLUE, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 36K | £4,250 |
| 58 FORD FOCUS 1.6 STYLE, 5 DOOR, SILVER, AIR CONDITIONING, FULL SERVICE, ONE OWNER 39K | £4,195 |
| 57 MINI COPER HATCHBACK, WHITE, AIR CONDITIONING, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 73K | £3,995 |
| 08 HONDA JAZZ, MET. LIGHT PINK, AIR CON., ALLOY WHEELS, PARKING SENSORS, SERVICE HISTORY 65K | £3,995 |
| 59 RENAULT CLIO DYNAMIQUE 1.2 TCE, 3 DOOR, RED, ALLOY WHEELS, SERVICE HISTORY 46K | £3,795 |
| 11 CITROEN C1 VTR+, WHITE, ALLOY WHEELS, AIR CON., REMOTE CENTRAL LOCKING, SERVICE HISTORY, £20 ROAD TAX 28K | £3,695 |
| 58 PEUGEOT 207 SPORT HDI, METALLIC ORANGE, FULL SERVICE HISTORY £30 ROAD TAX 44K | £3,495 |
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| 06 AUDI A4 1.8 TURBO TSE, AUTOMATIC, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 109K | £3,250 |
| 09 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO DESIRE, GREY, AIR CONDITIONING, ONE OWNER 46K | £2,995 |
| 08 VAUXHALL ASTRA BREEZE 1.4 HATCHBACK, SILVER, SERVICE HISTORY 49K | £2,750 |
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| 13 MERCEDES VITO 113 CDI FRIDGE VAN, WHITE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, SERVICE HISTORY 46K | £9,650 |
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| 66 FORD TRANSIT 350 L3 H3, WHITE, SIDE DOOR, ONE OWNER 21K | £13,795 |
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| 14 FORD TRANSIT 350 DRW CREW CAB TIPPER, WHITE, STORAGE IN REAR NO SEATS IN REAR BODY HAS BEEN SAND BLASTED AND PAINTED, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER 69K | £10,995 |
| 65 TRANSIT CUSTOM 290, 6 SPEED, WHITE, ONE OWNER, REGISTERED 2016, SERVICE HIST, 30K | £10,695 |
| 63 FORD TRANSIT 350 EF 125PS LWB RWD, 6 SPEED, LUTON/BOX VAN, WHITE, SERV.HISTORY 51K | £10,495 |
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| 63 VOLKSWAGEN TRANSPORTER TDI SWB, BLUE, AIR CONDITIONING, SERVICE HISTORY 78K | £9,695 |
| 15 VOLKSWAGEN CADDY MAXI LWB START LINE, TWIN SIDE DOORS, BLUE, AIR CON., ELECTRIC WINDOWS, SERVICE HISTORY 28K | £8,795 |
| 62 FORD TRANSIT 100 T280 SWB SEMI HIGH TOP, WHITE, AIR CON, RACKING IN REAR, SERVICE HISTORY 48K | £7,695 |
| 61 FORD TRANSIT 280 SWB SEMI HIGH TOP, WHITE, AIR CON., RACKING IN REAR, SERVICE HISTORY 37K | £7,495 |
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CARS OF THE WEEK

VAUXHALL MOKKA MOKKA 1.6 VVT SE 115



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Boxster has had the wick turned up

By Jack Evans

The Boxster has come to represent one of the sweet spots in the Porsche range, offering up excellent driving dynamics in a relatively compact yet stylish package.

Now there's a more powerful, driver-focused version – the 718 Boxster GTS. With stiffer suspension and a boost in engine output, it's there for drivers who just want a little more from their Boxster. The main changes to the GTS – other than the power boost – come in the form of a series of visual styling tweaks. You'll be able to spot the smoked head and taillights, satin 20-inch alloy wheels and black model designation on the boot. You also get small GTS monikers on the flanks of the car.

It's a subtle update over the normal Boxster, but there's just enough to make it stand out. The real benefit that you get when picking the GTS is the added dynamic capability, and improved driver involvement.

It's been well-covered that the latest generation of Boxster and Caymans do away with the older-generation's sonorous flat-six engine, replaced instead by a turbocharged 2.5-litre four cylinder. The die-hard Porsche enthusiasts have voiced their outrage at the change, but the truth is that the new unit is hugely flexible, offering up plenty of torque and endowing the Boxster with impressive performance – along with improved economy.

The unit in the GTS has been turned up with 26bhp added to the regular Boxster's output bringing a total 361bhp. In our test car, power was sent to the rear wheels via a six-speed manual gearbox, though it's also available with Porsche's PDK automatic. Performance is brisk, with 0-60mph in just 4.4 seconds.

The standard Boxster is a masterclass in



The main dials are clear and easy to read

driver involvement, and the GTS certainly builds on this. All of the major control weights – the steering, pedals and gearbox – have been expertly judged, with plenty of weight and an overall feeling of mechanical robustness. The gearshift is a particular highlight, thanks to a relatively short throw.

The ride is also an excellent middle ground between the firmness you'd expect from a sports car, and the suppleness that you'd want in a comfortable road car.

The Boxster is a striking looking car, with elegant proportions which just look 'right' on UK roads. The pictures don't entirely do it justice – this is one car that looks superb in the flesh. The GTS gains just enough added features to make it look special, but without appearing garish – as can sometimes happen with sportier-edition cars.

The drop in ride height on the GTS – down 10mm on the standard Boxster – makes it look even more dynamic, and while silver



The Boxster is a striking looking car, with elegant proportions which just look 'right' on UK roads

may not be the most exciting of colours, the metallic shade applied to our test car – when combined with the black alloys – really made it stand out.

The cabin of the Boxster GTS is a great place to be, with plenty of high-quality leather sitting alongside metal finishers. The biggest thing you'll notice about the Boxster's cabin is how spot-on the driving position is; there's plenty of adjustment to be found with both the steering wheel and seat, allowing to get comfortable easily. The main dials are clear and easy to read too, and are accompanied by a useful TFT screen located in the left

binnacle – this can display functions such as the satellite navigation. Sunny days can also be enjoyed thanks to the folding roof which can operate at speeds of up to 31mph, too.

Prices for the Boxster GTS start at £61,727, and for that you get the full range of GTS styling touches, along with the Sport Chrono package which incorporates a driving mode switch on the steering wheel and lap timer atop the dash. Porsche's full infotainment system is all included, and this features Apple CarPlay smartphone integration.

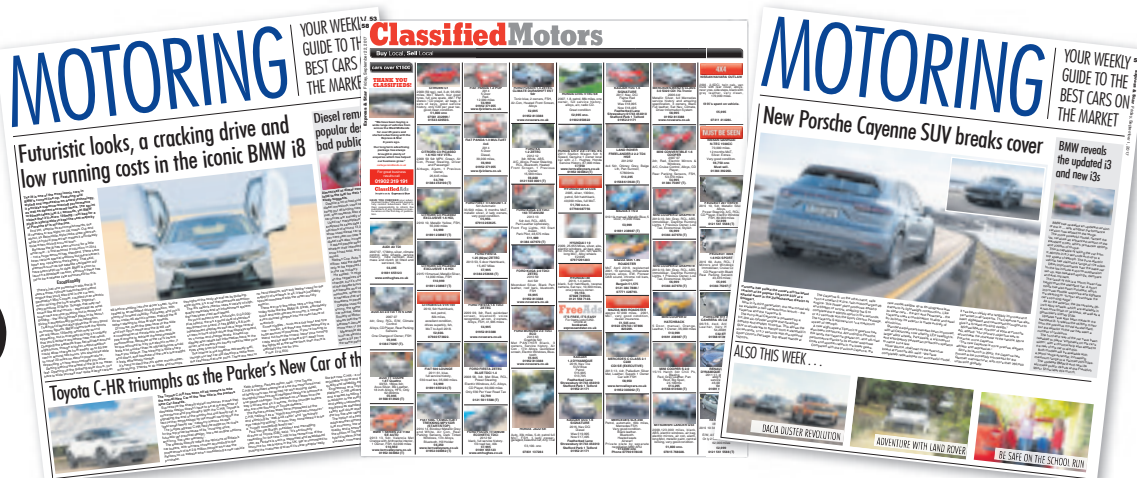
A six-speaker system also comes as standard, as do bi-xenon headlights. Our

test car came in at a substantial £71,191, with optional extras including cruise control at £228, and it's one we'd recommend going for if you're planning on taking longer journeys.

The Boxster GTS manages a tricky task – to make the standard Boxster even more exciting and involving to drive. Thanks to a handful of upgrades, it's now even more poised and sharper to drive than the car it's based on. Yes, it may be expensive – particularly when you start going through the optional extras – but go steady with the tick boxes and the GTS is easily one of the most rewarding sports convertibles on sale today.

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FRIDAY!

New Car?



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MOTORIZING

Express & Star

Birmingham Cricket League

| Premier Division 1st XI | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|---|---|---|-------|
| | P | W | D | L | T | A P |
| Knowle & D. | 16 | 11 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 1 267 |
| Berkswell | 16 | 8 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 255 |
| WB Dartmouth | 16 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 253 |
| Smethwick | 16 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 1 226 |
| Shrewsbury | 16 | 7 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 1 206 |
| Mossley | 16 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 1 195 |
| Kenilworth W. | 16 | 4 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 2 169 |
| Ombersley | 16 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 1 168 |
| Dorridge | 16 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 1 155 |
| Walsall | 16 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 0 | 1 153 |
| Barnt Green | 16 | 2 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 2 128 |
| Wolverhampton | 16 | 2 | 4 | 9 | 0 | 1 128 |

| Division One 1st XI | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|---|-------|
| | P | W | D | L | T | A P |
| Kidderminster | 16 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 251 |
| Shifnal | 16 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 220 |
| Halesowen | 16 | 6 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 2 213 |
| Oswestry | 16 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 2 212 |
| Bridgnorth | 16 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 1 205 |
| Tamworth | 16 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 2 201 |
| Barnards Green | 16 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 2 195 |
| Bromsgrove | 16 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 2 191 |
| Himley | 16 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 2 169 |
| Leamington | 16 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 2 162 |
| Brockhampton | 16 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 2 145 |
| Welling | 16 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 1 104 |

| Division Two 1st XI | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|---|---|----|---|-------|
| | P | W | D | L | T | A P |
| Walmsley | 16 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 1 238 |
| Harborne | 16 | 5 | 6 | 4 | 0 | 1 230 |
| C & R Hawks | 16 | 9 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 226 |
| Attock | 16 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 2 220 |
| Penkridge | 16 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 217 |
| Sutton Coldfield | 16 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 2 201 |
| Coventry & N.W. | 16 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 2 185 |
| Wombourne | 16 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 0 | 1 183 |
| Pershore | 16 | 5 | 4 | 5 | 0 | 2 183 |
| Fordhouses | 16 | 5 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 1 163 |
| Streety | 16 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 1 157 |
| Astwood Bank | 16 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 1 124 |

| Division Three 1st XI | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----|----|---|----|---|-------|
| | P | W | D | L | T | A P |
| Stourbridge | 16 | 10 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 2 272 |
| Rugby | 16 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 245 |
| Pelsall | 16 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 240 |
| Stratford-u-Avon | 16 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 1 233 |
| Old Hill | 16 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 1 225 |
| Handsworth | 16 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 2 203 |
| Lichfield | 16 | 7 | 0 | 9 | 0 | 2 203 |
| Redditch | 16 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 2 182 |
| Newport | 16 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 0 | 1 153 |
| Milford Hall | 16 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 2 122 |
| Old Elizabethans | 16 | 3 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 2 110 |
| Whitchurch | 16 | 2 | 2 | 11 | 0 | 1 102 |

| Premier Division 2nd XI | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|---|----|---|-------|
| | P | W | D | L | T | A P |
| Leamington | 16 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 264 |
| Shifnal | 16 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 247 |
| Wolverhampton | 16 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 2 249 |
| Kenilworth W. | 16 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 2 318 |
| Attock | 16 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 2 207 |
| Knowle & D. | 16 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 2 204 |
| Tamworth | 16 | 4 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 2 194 |
| Harborne | 16 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 0 | 2 162 |
| Brockhampton | 16 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 2 154 |
| Walmsley | 16 | 3 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 1 141 |
| Mossley | 16 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 2 131 |
| Himley | 16 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 0 | 1 179 |

| Division One 2nd XI | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|---|-------|
| | P | W | D | L | T | A P |
| Bromsgrove | 16 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 2 242 |
| Coventry & N.W. | 16 | 9 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 2 234 |
| Walsall | 16 | 10 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 230 |
| Ombersley | 16 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 2 207 |
| Astwood Bank | 16 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 0 | 1 204 |
| Halesowen | 16 | 8 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 2 203 |
| WB Dartmouth | 16 | 8 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 1 203 |
| Barnt Green | 16 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 0 | 1 182 |
| Penkridge | 16 | 5 | 7 | 7 | 0 | 1 178 |
| Shrewsbury | 16 | 4 | 3 | 8 | 0 | 1 171 |
| Wombourne | 16 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 0 | 1 152 |
| Pershore | 16 | 1 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 2 67 |

| Division Two 2nd XI (N) | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|---|-------|
| | P | W | D | L | T | A P |
| Bridgnorth | 16 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 321 |
| Fordhouses | 16 | 12 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 298 |
| Pelsall | 16 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 263 |
| Smethwick | 16 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 1 | 1 212 |
| C & R Hawks | 16 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 0 | 2 190 |
| Old Hill | 16 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 2 188 |
| Welling | 16 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 0 | 1 186 |
| Lichfield | 16 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 1 162 |
| Oswestry | 16 | 3 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 1 125 |
| Newport | 16 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 2 59 |
| Whitchurch | 16 | 1 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 1 44 |

Henshall Shropshire County Cricket League

| Premier | | | | | | |
|--------------|----|----|---|----|-----|--------|
| | P | W | D | L | C/A | B P |
| Wern | 16 | 10 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 32 273 |
| Quatt | 16 | 11 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 15 271 |
| Madeley | 16 | 10 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 26 234 |
| Worfield | 15 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 18 225 |
| Ludlow | 15 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 3 | 37 187 |
| St Georges | 16 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 47 154 |
| Bomere Heath | 15 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 3 | 35 153 |
| Frankton | 15 | 4 | 0 | 9 | 2 | 50 141 |
| Newtown | 15 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 46 122 |
| Cound | 16 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 3 | 62 103 |

| Division 1 | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|--------|
| | P | W | D | L | C/A | B P |
| Allscott | 17 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 31 330 |
| Pontesbury | 17 | 12 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 17 290 |
| Shelfton | 17 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 39 280 |
| Knockin & Kinnerley | 17 | 11 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 30 275 |
| Alberbury | 17 | 10 | 0 | 5 | 2 | 37 270 |
| Beacon | 17 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 36 215 |
| Wroster & Uppington | 17 | 8 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 49 213 |
| Forton | 17 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 58 185 |
| Welshpool | 17 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 1 | 40 158 |
| Albrighton | 17 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 50 153 |
| Coundover | 17 | 5 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 45 153 |
| Market Drayton | 17 | 0 | 4 | 16 | 1 | 32 46 |

| Division 2 | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|---|---|-----|--------|
| | P | W | D | L | C/A | B P |
| Ellesmere | 17 | 12 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 29 315 |
| Alberbury | 17 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 24 267 |
| Shifnal | 17 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 14 254 |
| Lilleshall | 17 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 32 242 |
| Welling | 17 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 56 211 |
| Ludlow | 17 | 7 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 44 209 |
| Hodnet, Peplow & Tibberton | 17 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 45 207 |



Haughmond's Adam Davies (right) and Joseph Burroughs battle it out during the FA Cup extra preliminary round clash at the Sports Village. Haughmond beat Wolves Sporting 2-0 to pocket £2,250 and set up a tie with Market Drayton. ■ Picture: Richard Dawson.

| Division 3 | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|--------|
| | P | W | D | L | C/A | B P |
| Hinstock | 17 | 12 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 21 297 |
| Harpers | 17 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 37 287 |
| Calverhall | 17 | 10 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 35 271 |
| Iscoyd & Fenns Bank | 17 | 9 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 35 234 |
| Prees | 17 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 0 | 37 218 |
| Acton Reynald | 17 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 49 216 |
| Church Stretton | 17 | 8 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 33 207 |
| Chelmarsh | 17 | 5 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 73 205 |
| Cae Glas | 16 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 47 155 |
| Much Wenlock | 17 | 4 | 1 | 10 | 0 | 45 148 |
| Overton-on-Dee | 17 | 4 | 1 | 11 | 1 | 43 120 |
| St Georges | 16 | 2 | 1 | 13 | 0 | 38 73 |

| Division 4 | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|--------|
| | P | W | D | L | C/A | B P |
| Bridgnorth | 13 | 11 | 0 | 1 | 8 | 252 |
| Trysull & Seisdon | 13 | 11 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 235 |
| Gulfield | 14 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 27 212 |
| Column | 14 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 0 | 36 179 |
| Harcourt | 14 | 7 | 0 | 6 | 1 | 24 170 |
| Corvedale | 15 | 5 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 34 148 |
| Quayside | 14 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 38 117 |
| Llanidloes | 15 | 5 | 0 | 9 | 1 | 26 110 |
| Coton Hall | 14 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 0 | 39 86 |
| Beacon | 14 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 37 59 |

| Div 1 2nd XI | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|-----|--------|
| | P | W | D | L | C/A | B P |
| Sentinel | 15 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 20 263 |
| St Georges | 16 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 15 261 |
| Worfield | 16 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 33 258 |
| Alberbury | 16 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 52 182 |
| Frankton | 15 | 7 | 0 | 8 | 0 | 36 180 |
| Wern | 15 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 57 170 |
| Welling | 15 | 6 | 0 | 6 | 3 | 27 166 |
| Quatt | 16 | 5 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 49 162 |
| Shelfton | 15 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 1 | 29 161 |
| Knockin & Kinnerley | 16 | 3 | 1 | 10 | 2 | 59 131 |
| Montgomery | 15 | 2 | 0 | 11 | 2 | 50 102 |

| Div 2 2nd XI | | | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|---|----|-----|--------|
| | P | W | D | L | C/A | B P |
| Newtown | 17 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 28 245 |
| Beacon | 17 | 10 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 22 242 |
| Quatt | 17 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 52 230 |
| Cound | 17 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 27 224 |
| Acton Reynald | 17 | 8 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 31 202 |
| Lilleshall | 17 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 35 197 |
| Willye | 17 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 39 197 |
| Ludlow | 17 | 6 | 0 | 8 | 3 | 37 176 |
| Bomere Heath | 17 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 50 164 |
| Broseley | 17 | 9 | 0 | 5 | 3 | 22 163 |
| Allscott | 17 | 3 | 1 | 12 | 1 | 67 144 |
| Shifnal | 17 | 4 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 37 115 |

| Div 3 2nd XI | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|----|---|---|-----|--------|
| | P | W | D | L | C/A | B P |
| Pontesbury | 16 | 12 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 13 280 |
| Ellesmere | 16 | 9 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 23 222 |
| Allscott | 15 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 26 220 |
| Forton | 15 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 33 213 |
| Welshpool | 15 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 26 197 |
| Albrighton | 15 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 21 186 |
| Quatt | 15 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 41 182 |
| Iscoyd & Fenns Bank | 16 | 6 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 36 174 |
| Cae Glas | 15 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 1 | 40 153 |
| St Georges | 15 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 23 141 |
| Lilleshall | 15 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 51 126 |
| Much Wenlock | 14 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 26 108 |
| Coundover | 14 | 1 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 24 96 |
| Corvedale | 13 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 12 19 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|----|---|---|---|-----|----|-----|
| Much Wenlock | 15 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 26 | 108 |
| Conover | 14 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 24 | 98 |
| Corvedale | 13 | 1 | 0 | 9 | 3 | 12 | 19 |
| Sun1 | | | | | | | |
| | P | W | D | L | C/A | B | P |
| Worfield | 16 | 8 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 42 | 233 |
| Shrewsbury | 15 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 19 | 215 |
| Wern | 16 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 | 34 | 212 |
| Knockin & Kinnerley | 15 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 2 | 50 | 196 |
| Cound | 16 | 6 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 43 | 187 |
| Frankton | 15 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 38 | 183 |
| Welling | 16 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 32 | 178 |
| Pontesbury | 16 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 40 | 176 |
| Newport | 15 | 6 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 22 | 143 |

Dixon mixes with stars for Portugal win

SHREWSBURY golfer Richard Dixon has won the annual Sir Bobby Robson Celebrity Classic tournament in Portugal.

The Sky Sports-covered event – where all proceeds are donated to charity – featured the likes of football stars Alan Shearer and Mick McCarthy.

Dixon, who participated in a team alongside former Republic of Ireland winger and Escape to Victory star Kevin O’Callaghan, called the success ‘the biggest achievement of my life’.

Returns

Llilleshall

August Midweek Stableford – division one: 1 L Meredith 40, 2 M Redfern 39; division two: 1 D Green 40, 2 C Shinton 40. **President’s Putter**: 1 D Cowie 44, 2 B Challenger 42. **Ladies’ July Stableford**: 1 J Minors 38, A Ford 34.

Llanymynech

Ladies’ Thirties Cup winner: Merryl Andrew 103-34=69. **August Medal** – division one: 1 Ros Phillips 84-19=65, 2 Julia Line 81-10=71, 3 Norma Hughes 89-14=75; division two: 1 Annie Evans 91-23=68, 2 Gail Roberts 100-29=71, 3 Deborah Grey 98-24=74; division three: 1 Merryl Andrew 103-34=69, 2 Janet Jones 102-30=72, 3 Brenda Rowlands 112-37=75.

Midweek Nine hole Stableford: 1 James Clewlow 22pts, 2 Martin Owen 21pts, 3 Andy Cleaton 20pts, 4 Jeremy Dell 20pts, 5 Sam Roberts 20pts, 6 Jack Bottomley 20pts, 7 Paul Prust 20pts, 8 Olve Andrew 20pts.

Oswestry

Wynne Corrie Cup: 1 Martin Gould 78-12=66, 2 David Richards 71-4=67, 3 Andy Allen 78-9=69, 4 Guy Wilson 77-8=69, 5 Glyn Hughes 80-10=70, 6 Mark Williams 79-9=70.

Ladies’ Gittins Cup Medal: 1 Enid Gill (after three-way play off) nett 69, 2 Margaret Shakeshaft nett 69, 3 Brenda Wilson nett 69, 4t Anne Colquhoun 89-18=71, 5 Margaret Ratcliffe 89-18=71.

Ladies’ invitation Four Ball Better Ball Stableford: 1 Sarah Weaver & Jan Wruszek 45pts, 2 Sarah Williams & Anne Evans 45pts, 3 Margaret Dunbar & Kathy Evans 44pts, 4 Meryl Batto & Ruth Lockyer 43pts, 5 Gill Griffiths & Lynda Morris 42pts, 6 Margaret Landgrebe & Morgan Wood 42pts.

Ladies’ Hospital Challenge Cup: 1 Jane Jones 87-17=70, 2 Marie Male 89-18=71, 3 Chris Warburton 90-19=71, 4 Jennifer Edwards 91-19=72, 5 Di Hall 91-19=72.

Ladies’ High Flyers Challenge Bowl: 1 Gwyneth Barnes-Jones 107-34=73, 2 Setsuko Watanabe 112-35=77, 3 Jill Edwards 112-34=78, 4 Kay Wilkinson 117-39=78, 5 Rosemary Evans 114-35=79.

Shrewsbury

Ladies’ Greensomes: 1 Kate George & Marion Adams 41pts, 2 Jane Edwards & Nikki Anderson 40pts, 3 Marie O’Sullivan & Pat Turner 39pts, 4 Jane Edwards & Gill Ferguson 38pts.

The Brow

Midweek Stableford: 1 Barrie Thomas 35pts, 2Terry Brough 34pts, 3 Trevor Williams 28pts, 4 John Youns 28pts.

August Medal: Winner John Rich 92-28=64; best gross: Terry Brough 82. **Division one**: 1 Mike Clark 84-15=71, 2 Brian Stuttard 86-15=71; **division two**: 1 John Youns 90-21=69, 2 Ian Davies 90-21=69.

Wrekin

Seniors’ Long Island round one 15 hole Stableford: 1 Les Hayward 33/15, 2 Dave Pegge 32/16, 3 Derek Taylor 32/14. **countback**

Shropshire Cricket Lge fixture list

Saturday

Premier division: Cound v Worfield, Madeley v Ludlow, Wern v Frankton, St Georges v Sentinel, Newtown v Bomere Heath, Quatt (no game).

Division one: Welshpool v Beacon, Alberbury v Shelton, Albrighton v Forton, Allicott Heath v Market Drayton, Pontesbury v Condover, Knockin and Kinnerley v Wroxeter and Uppington.

Division two: Montgomery v Bishop’s Castle, Ellesmere v Ludlow 3, Shrewsbury 3 v Willey, Wheaton Aston v Llilleshall, Shifnal 3 v Wellington 3, HPTCC v Church Aston.

Division three: Hinstock v Church Stretton, Harpers v Iscoyd and Fenns Bank, Acton Reynald v Cae Glas, St Georges 3 v Calverhall, Wenlock v Prees, Overton on Dee v Chelmarsh.

Division four: Cotton Hall v Beacon 3, Guilsfield v Bridgnorth 3, Llandiloes v Trysuli and Seisdon, Corvedale v Oswestry 3, Quayside v Colum, Harcourt (no game).

Second teams

Division one: Worfield 2 v Montgomery 2, Alberbury 2 v Shelton 2, Frankton 2 v Wern 2, Sentinel 2 v St Georges 2, Wellington 4 v Quatt 2, Wroxeter and Uppington 2 v Knockin and Kinnersley 2.

Division two: Beacon 2 v Cound 2, Ludlow 2 v Madeley 2, Willey 2 v Acton Reynald 2, Llilleshall 2 v Pontesbury 2, Broseley v Shifnal 4, Bomere Heath 2 v Newtown 2.

Division three: Cae Glas 2 v St Georges 4, Iscoyd and Fenns Bank 2 v Welshpool 2, Condover 2 v Much Wenlock 2, Market Drayton 2 v Ellesmere 2, Llilleshall 4 v Pontesbury 2, Forton 2 v Corvedale 2, Quatt 3 v Allicott Heath 3, Bishop’s Castle 2 v Albrighton 2.

Sunday

Division one: Pontesbury 3 v Frankton 3, Wern 3 v Newport 3, Knockin and Kinnersley 3 v Wellington 3, Sentinel 3 v Cound 3, Shrewsbury 3 v Ludlow 3, Worfield 3 (no game).

Division two: Bomere Heath 3 v Oswestry 4, Bridgnorth 4 v Ludlow 4, Madeley 3 v Alberbury 3, Wellington 6 v Madeley 4, Whitchurch 3 v Knockin and Kinnersley 4.

Ellesmere boost survival hopes with big win

ROCK-BOTTOM Ellesmere A pulled off a shock 9-1 hammering of high flying Llanrhaeadr A to keep alive hopes of escaping the drop from the Oswestry and District Bowling League division two. The Meresiders have been struggling this term, but made a mockery of the formbook with a crushing win over the title-chasers in which they took the aggregate by 158-107.

They enjoyed three single figure wins, John Harrison (21-6) the best of the night, Ray Batha with a 21-8 card while Mike Dovaston prevailed to nine.

The visitors gained some consolation through the consistent Steve Jones who won 21-11 to make it 17 wins out of 18 outings to remain top of the second division averages.

With four games remaining, Llanrhaeadr are still 10 points clear at the summit, while Ellesmere still have plenty of work to do if they are to escape the basement positions despite their victory.

On a night of surprises, promotion chasing Weston Rhyn A suffered a 9-1 (160-118) drubbing at home to Church B who pushed away from danger.

Pam Milner (21-10) was the best of the night for Church, while

BOWLS by John Bridgwater

Dave Milner and Emrys Jones both won to 11. Andrew Riley (21-13) provided the one bright note for the home side whose hopes of returning to the top flight appear to be over.

Mid-table George took the honours 6-4 away to Llangynog A, in which they shaded the aggregate by four shots (143-139). Russell Ellis led the way with a 21-5 verdict.

Paul Edwards and Steve Thomas (both 21-9) helped Ye Olde Crofte A run out 8-2 (154-130) winners at home to Criftings B to ease their relegation concerns.

Andrew Miner and Paul Tomlinson replied with 21-14 successes for the Dudleston Heath side.

Second placed Johnstown B overcame visiting Plas Kynaston A 7-3 (149-139) to maintain their promotion push.

Meanwhile, it was night to forget for Llanymynech A who were whitewashed 10-0 (168-90) away at second placed Llangollen A to slip back into basement danger in division one.

James Candlin and Mark Kirkham came closest for the visitors before falling to 21-17 defeats.

Whittington A consolidated third position after sweeping aside Corwen A 9-1 (165-90) with Graham Humphreys and Ben Hampson leading the way to two and five respectively.

At the other end of the table, Church A moved out of the basement places with an 8-2 (145-120) home success against Flexsys A, Steve Williams notching a 21-8 victory.

Defending champions Ceiriog Valley A took another step towards retaining the title as they proved too hot for Cynwyd A when running out 9-1 (164-107) winners.

Andrew Jones (21-10) led the way as Criftings A secured a 7-3 success against visiting Johnstown A, in which just seven shots (137-130) separated the sides

Chirk A lost ground on the leading pack after succumbing 8-2 (145-120) at home to Ruabon A.

Other results

Division two: Criftings C 7 (137) Johnstown D 3 (110).

Division three: Ruabon B 9 (164) Whittington B 1 (115), Ifton 9 (163)

Ceiriog Valley C 1 (116), Ceiriog Valley B 9 (160) Church C 1 (114), Church Lions 8 (157) Bersham 2 (95), Llangollen B 4 (139) Chirk B 6 (144), Johnstown C 6 (138) Llanymynech Foxes 4 (121).

Division four: Pentre Broughton 10 (168) Llangynog C 0 (53), Llanymynech B 9 (165) Llanrhaeadr C 1 (91), Overton A 7 (161) Llanfyllin A 3 (101), Weston Rhyn B 7 (149) Cynwyd B 3 (112), Llanrhaeadr D 5 (146) Criftings D 5 (140), Whittington E 1 (124) Ellesmere B 9 (167).

Division five: Weston Rhyn C 10 (168) Llanrhaeadr B 0 (91), Whittington C 8 (155) Johnstown E 2 (85), Ye Olde Crofte B 7 (144) Plas Kynaston B 3 (126), Criftings E 6 (135) Ponciau Park A 4 (110), Cynwyd C 3 (133) Llanymynech C 7 (156), Corwen B 3 (129) Chirk C 7 (146).

Division six: Ruabon C 9 (166) Church D 1 (80), Chirk D 9 (161) Llanfyllin B 1 (102), Pontcarr Park B 8 (149) Whittington D 2 (117), Llanrhaeadr E 7 (147) Weston Rhyn D 3 (126), Church E 7 (144) Hampden Arms 3 (91), Overton B 6 (143) Llangynog B 4 (139).

Five-star New Saints hit ground running

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

CHRIS Seargeant marked his return to action with a double strike as The New Saints launched their defence of the JD Welsh Premier crown with a 5-1 victory over Barry Town United at Park Hall.

The midfielder, on the bench for three of his team’s recent European games, made the most of his start by producing a couple of excellent finishes to put the Saints in charge.

Blaine Hudson had headed the first and, despite a leveller from Curtis Watkins, Seargeant’s brace just before the break, and two second half strikes from substitute Greg Draper, ensured a convincing start to their league campaign.

Chasing an eighth successive league crown this term, the Saints were soon on the front foot as Aeron Edwards put an early effort wide.

Adrian Cieslewicz - also back in the starting line-up along with Kurtis Byrne - then had a shot comfortably held by keeper Mike Lewis.

But the Saints were soon ahead on 15 minutes as defender Hudson again showed his goal-scoring threat when nodding home a free kick.

Moments later, the defending champions went close to a second as Byrne was denied by Lewis as he broke clear, with the keeper also thwarting the follow-up from Jamie Mullan.

Byrne had another effort turned away for a corner by Lewis, and Seargeant curled an effort just wide of the left post.

The Saints, however, found themselves pegged back in the 38th minute when Watkins headed in a corner, but were soon back in front as Seargeant struck twice in three minutes before half time.

First, he drilled home a shot following excellent work down the left, before curling a terrific second past Lewis right on the interval.

After the break, left back Chris Marriott was inches off target with another effort, but Barry continued to battle hard as they looked to find a way back into the game.

Town taste defeat for first time



Oswestry Town’s Reece Taylor finds himself outnumbered at Park Hall. ■ Pic: Nick Evans-Jones.

FC OSWESTRY Town slipped to their first loss of the season in the North West Counties League division one (south) when downed 4-0 by early high fliers Wythen-shawe Town at Park Hall.

After picking up four points from their first two outings, Town ended up well beaten by their visitors from south Manchester.

Manager Matt Burton, who still has a number of players

ruled out, admitted “it was a bad day at the office both individually and collectively.”

His side trailed to a ninth minute own goal from Owen Lloyd, before Sam Fitzgerald (52), Chris Middleton (68) and Niall Rhodes (85) sealed their fate.

St MARTINS suffered their second narrow loss on the road after being edged out 1-0 at Stone Old Alleynians who took the

spoils with a 22nd minute strike by Jack Tomlinson.

Ellesmere Rangers are still looking for their first points after slumping 3-0 at Stone Dominoes who took the spoils.

It has been a disappointing start to the season for the Meresiders who also bowed out of the FA Cup with a 1-0 exit at home to Leicester Road in the extra preliminary round.

Josh goes from mountain to motorbike

MOTORSPORT by James Driver-Fisher

JOSH Williams has already raced on two wheels to a national standard – he now aims to do the same on a motorbike.

Having raced at the highest level on a mountain bike, the club racer has his eyes on the British Superbike (BSB) prize.

The Oswestry racer has returned to motorsport following a self-imposed five-year hiatus, but hopes his early success in the Tonfanau and Wirral 100 championships will be the stepping stone he needs eventually to race at the top level.

Williams, 27, currently sits second in the Tonfanau series and sixth in the Wirral 100, which are both raced just over the Shropshire border in Wales.

He also enters the occasional N G Road Racing championship round, when time and funds allow, which takes him up and down the country and gives him the experience of racing on the same UK tracks used in the BSB.

Williams, who also works full time as a builder, said: “I started racing pushbikes when I was about 11 and I just progressed from them all the way to superbikes.

“I was about 17 when I first rode a motorbike and 20 when I started racing them. I first raced between 2000 and 2001 but stopped before restarting over the last few years.

“When racing pushbikes, I competed in national championships, between the ages of 11 to 17.

“I stopped around 18 because I’d developed other interests, like most teenagers that age.

“I wish hadn’t really but then I just jumped on a motorbike and it all went from there.

“My older brother, Marcus, was also a really good cyclist and he went on to represent Great Britain in the downhill class at the World Cup.”

Williams eventually bought a 400cc and was ready to follow in the footsteps of his father, Philip, and uncle Michael, who had also raced at club meetings.

“My uncle still does now, but he’s riding classic bikes,” said Williams. “Personally, I didn’t do any track days before I went into club racing. I did one training day to get my licence and then just went

for it.”

Williams’ first club race was at Tonfanau, on a Honda 400cc, but he stopped after his debut, mainly because of the expense. But the pull of racing meant he could not stay away for too long.

“I started missing it again more anything else – it’s fair to say the bug had bitten me again,” he said.

“When I returned, I entered the Wirral 100 series, which is raced at Anglesey in Wales and Oulton Park in Cheshire, in the Formula 600 class.

“I ended up winning the Anglesey Grand title, which is the showpiece finale for the whole campaign, raced during the final round.

“I’m currently sitting sixth and seventh in two championships at the moment, and I’m also back racing at Tonfanau in the 450-1100 class. I’m second in that championship.

“A big thanks goes to Phil Morris Racing, Cobra Motorsport, WOC Hire, Paramount Construction, Chips Away and of course my mum, Lesley, and dad for all their support at every round.”

Anyone would like to sponsor Williams is asked to contact him via Facebook or call 07850 762010.

Flooded green forces a delay

A rarity this summer – a flooded green – put paid to the Oswestry League’s Tote Bookmakers Cup.

Organiser Trevor Roberts will try again at the scheduled venue of Johnstown on Sunday, September 2, after being forced to cancel it on July 29.

“There were not enough snorkels and flippers to go round!” joked Roberts, who will now take entries until August 26.

“The Johnstown green was completely flooded when I went down at 8am, it was still raining and the forecast was for more of the same until early afternoon.

“It was so unfortunate as we had a good entry of 34 with some cracking pairings lined up right from the off.

“Hopefully September is kinder to us.”

New bike does trick as Kieran sets pace



Kieran Morris won round 14

SOME 51 riders took to the line as a warm and sunny evening produced another great turnout for round 14 of the Oswestry Paragon evening time trial series.

Paragon junior rider Kieran Morris put his new bike to good use by producing his quickest ride of the year on the Queens Head-Gobowen course, finishing in 21mins 52secs to take his third victory of the year.

Second went to Hafren CC's Peter Thomas who knocked nearly a minute off his previous course best to cross the line in 22:45.

Round 13 winner Dylan Roberts, of Wrecsam Tri, improved by 10 seconds on his time from the previous week taking third place in 23:20.

Twenty-five seconds separated the next six riders with Mid Shropshire Wheelers' Richard Collins quickest of the group in 23:26 with Glyn Jones sealing the men's points series when finishing fifth in 23:39.

There was a personal best for Paragon rider Dean Barnett who finished seventh in 23:48.

Jack Morris continues to lead the competition for fastest Paragon rider on a standard road bike this week when he clocked 23:51 - recording exactly the same time as team mate Lee Williams for ninth place.

Jack Young continues to lead the junior male Paragon competition when coming home in 25:21 after tackling the course on his road bike.

Lucy Hammonds looks set to retain the junior women's trophy and knocking over 30 seconds off her course best to finish in 30:31. Liz Breeze was the only other female competitor in 29:53.

Frankton are boosted by vital victory

FRANKTON clinched a timely seven wicket win over St Georges to boost hopes of climbing clear of basement danger in the Shropshire Cricket League premier division.

Put in to bat, St Georges struggled to 117, Richard Parry-Jones taking 5-30, before the Hardwick Park hosts knocked off the runs inside 15 overs with Thomas Wilkie making 38 and Scott Hale 35 not out.

FRANKTON II were downed by six wickets at their St Georges counterparts in the 2nd XI League division one.

Electing to bat first, they were bowled out for 151 in 24.4 overs, with Goerge Dickin (50) and Tom Cockayne (49) the principal contributors in an excellent second wicket stand before the innings fell away in the chase for quick runs.

St Georges made good progress to the target, Curtis Dixon hitting 63 and Liam Forrester 36 not out to seal victory in the 27th over.

KNOCKIN & KINNERLEY stayed among the front runners in division one with a 34 run win over Conover.

Opener and skipper Jak Jones cracked 83 as Knockin raced to 232-7, Rhys Williams also making 48. In reply, their Shrewsbury rivals were restricted to 198-7.

Shropshire on way back to Morda Road

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

MINOR Counties Championship cricket returns to Oswestry on Sunday after an absence of four years when Shropshire take on old foes Wales at the Stonehouse Oval.

The county side currently lie second in the table, 19 points behind leaders Berkshire who face Cheshire at Chester Boughton Hall in what promises to be an intriguing and potentially pivotal game.

With three wins out of four, Shropshire will be looking to pounce on any slip by the current champions as the season moves into its final furlong. It is 45 long years since Shropshire lifted the Minor Counties crown - 1973 was the year that the county's legendary seamer Peter Bradley led their charge when taking 67 wickets at an average of 10.76 after perfecting his famous leg-cutter.

There are still those at Morda Road who remember the St Georges stalwart skittling out Bedfordshire for just 35 on a rain-affected wicket - the very same summer he dismissed the great West Indian batsman Laurence Rowe cheaply in both innings in the tourists' drawn game with the full minor counties side at Torquay.

Shropshire's latest victory came against Dorset at Bournemouth last week when Oswestry's very own Warrick Fynn turned in a brilliant all-round performance.

The left-handed batsman and slow left-arm, who has already struck over 800 runs in the Birmingham League this season, top scored with 61 before taking 4-58 in the first innings.

Fynn did even better in the second innings, making 66 before spinning the "Cats" to victory with the remarkable figures of 7-60 off 29 overs.

Another Oswestry player hoping to be included in the Shropshire side and play on his home ground is batsman Joe Carrasco, who has also been in a rich vein of form for the Border men.

Preparations

And there is a third player from Oswestry hoping to be selected for the game - not for Shropshire, but Wales! He is youngster Roman Walker, who has produced some scintillating innings in the middle order this season.

The Glamorgan junior professional, who hails from Wrexham and is just 18, has been playing for the Wales minor counties side much of the season, and was in the team that went down to Wiltshire last week.

"It would be brilliant to play on my home ground against the Shropshire lads. I really enjoy it at Oswestry," said the popular all-rounder.

Club chairman Chris Wiseman is happy with the way preparations are going for the game which is eagerly awaited by members, given the local interest.

"We are very honoured to be staging our second county match of the season following the centenary match with the RAF," he said. "The people of Oswestry always turn out well to support Shropshire on these occasions.

"We are expecting a good crowd if the weather stays fine, and the possibility of three Oswestry players taking part will provide extra spice. Roman, if selected, might need reminding of which dressing room he's to use!"

Play is from 11am to 7pm each day with admission is free, while there will be bar facilities and refreshments available at the ground. Those travelling by car should park at the Marches School.

Not even the rain can stop Oswestry

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY maintained their promotion push in the Birmingham League division one after easing to a six wicket victory over Barnards Green in a rain-affected encounter at Morda Road.

Set to score 239 off their allotted 50 overs, Oswestry were always in control when the rain, which had always threatened, finally arrived.

With 11 overs still to go, and well ahead on the Duckworth-Lewis rules, unbeaten skipper Robbie Clarke and Roman Walker left the field for the last time as umpires called it a day with the hosts on 190-4.

Warwick Fynn, fresh from his county heroics in Bournemouth, and Joe Carrasco, laid the foundations with an opening stand of 53, before Fynn was caught at deep mid-off from the bowling of Worcestershire's George Rhodes.

Carrasco was joined by Joe Clarke, a late call-up

to the side, who some considered was a little unfortunate not to be making his Test debut against India at Lord's.

The Worcestershire ace was in imperious form, batting beautifully, and had reached 53 when he was brilliantly caught by county colleague Rhodes at mid-wicket off the bowling of Josh Blunt.

Brother Xavier joined Carrasco as the Oswestry charge continued, before the youngest Clarke (14) was caught and bowled by Rhodes, with the score on 160-3.

Carrasco fell 17 runs later for a fine 64 off 98 balls - which included six fours and one six - but by then victory was well in sight with the forecasted bad weather quickly closing in. Rhodes finished with



Para swimmer Tom Pigott with six gold medals from the Welsh National championships and (right) Morgan Jones with his 50m backstroke Welsh champion gold with head coach Timothy Hastie

OSWESTRY Otters Swimming Club has enjoyed a golden season in the pool following a number of changes over the last 10 months.

In that time, not only has the club been represented by swimmers in local events such as the Shropshire County and West Midlands Championships, but has also had individuals who have gone on to international development camps and represent both the West Midlands and Swim Wales teams.

Since the arrival of Tim Hastie as the club's first ever paid head coach last October, the Otters has seen many changes, most notably introducing a five-day training schedule for all of its members, to the club becoming a registered charity status.

Prior to arriving at Oswestry, Tim coached with Ellesmere College Titans for three years before moving to be head coach at Wombourne Swimming Club.

"It was a delight to have the opportunity to return back to Shropshire to coach in an area which first sparked my coaching career," he said.

"We have been so inspired and proud of our members this year, in particular the club spirit has been shown by Morgan Jones who competed at the British swimming championships in Edinburgh in March, and Tom Piggott who went to the British para swimming championships in Sheffield.

"We have also exceeded expectations at this year's Home Nationals in Swansea. It was a long seven days of events with about 75 hours of swimming, nevertheless we saw 15 finalists from Shropshire members.

"A total of nine medals were achieved - seven golds for team Otters and one silver and bronze for the other Shropshire club members in attendance."

He added: "Although this season is over, our vision and goals are always at the forefront of our minds for the upcoming swimming season.

"The club has invested in new equipment to help build up an injury prevention and strength and conditioning programme in addition to providing funds towards a new backstroke starting wedge, which will help with the future development of all of our swimmers."

Oswestry Otters also provide Master swimming sessions regularly on Thursday evenings from 7pm-9pm.

The club are always in need of sponsorship to continue to build and provide a better programme for it current and future members.

For further information and the latest news check out the club's website at www.oswestry-otters.org.uk.

New-look Otters are making waves



Monty win again to maintain title push

MONTGOMERY stayed on course for promotion from the second division of the Shropshire Cricket League after claiming a four wicket success away to Church Aston.

After their title hopes faded following the previous week's loss to leaders Ellesmere, Monty hit back to maintain their hopes of a top two finish.

Opting to bat first, Church Aston were restricted to 162-9 in a match reduced to 35 overs a side, before the visitors paced their reply well to get home with just under four overs to spare.

Monty's bowlers were soon on top, skipper Sam Williams picking up 4-52 and Alex Bromley 3-22, but were held up by 77 from opener Avi Mathur.

Aaron Ruff-Cock then led the reply with 44, before Williams completed a good all round day with 35 to help his side over the line. Ieuan Griffiths made 28 and Rob Bennett 26 not out.

Leaders ELLESMERE took another stride towards the second division title after sweeping aside struggling Bishop's Castle by 10 wickets. They are 48 points clear at the top with five games remaining.

George Duncan took 3-12 and Joe Austin 3-13 as Castle were bundled out for just 68, Fraser Duncan also claiming a couple of wickets.

Jean-Pierre Erasmus then smashed 52 not out as the Meresiders reached their modest target in just eight overs.

WELSHPOOL succumbed by two wickets in a tight finish against Wroxeter & Uppington to remain in the lower reaches of division one.

After struggling to 129 all out in 42.1 overs, Pool's bowlers hit back, but were unable to stave off defeat as the hosts got home in 33 overs.

Robert Anderson gave them hope with 4-24.

Ladies tennis side hoping to net promotion

AS the season draws to a close, Oswestry Tennis Club's ladies first team kept alive their title hopes in the Shropshire premier division with two superb maximum point victories on home turf.

First up, was the visit of league leaders Bridgnorth who were well beaten 4-0 by the hosts.

With Speth Cumpston - stepping up from the second team to replace the injured Kat Oakley - partnering captain Josie Macrae, and the regular pairing of Eirian Jones and Fiona Russell, the team flew through the first two rubbers 6-1, 6-1, and 6-2, 6-2 respectively to take a commanding 2-0 lead.

In the reverse rubbers, Jones and Russell never took their feet of the gas and easily overcame the Bridgnorth second pair in straight sets 6-1, 6-1.

Macrae and Cumpston found themselves up against it playing the opposing first pair, but they took the first set 7-5 before dropping the second 2-6. However, they were re-gained their composure to take the deciding third set tie break 1-0.

The second fixture saw the Ladies up against Fuxoe Masoia.

Both pairs powered through the first round rubbers, with Macrae and junior member Katie Land, making her debut for the club, winning 6-1, 6-1, while Eirian Jones and Fiona Russell also won 6-2, 6-2.

In the reverse rubbers, the winning trend continued with Macrae and Land again playing superbly winning in straight sets for the loss of only two games 6-1, 6-1.

Jones and Russell were made to work hard but they took the first set 7-5 but then dropped the second 4-6 before winning the tie break.

Sport

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motorbike – P38



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Atherton on course for world title

RACHEL Atherton tightened her grip on UCI Mountain Bike World series when taking victory in the sixth race in Mont-Sainte-Anne, Canada.

With two rounds remaining, the 30-year-old from Llanrhaeadr cemented her place on top of the overall standings to move in sight of recapturing the women's elite title she relinquished last year.

She has 1,226 points, 110 ahead of nearest rival Tahnee Seagrave, while Tracey Hannah is third, way back on 905 points.

Qualifying second on a testing course in Mont-Sainte-Anne that had been battered by storms, Atherton was fired up for the finals as she stormed through to finish in a time of 4.51.44.

Seagrave, the fastest qualifier, for last to ride, but crucially lost time as she had to settle for second place, 5.08 seconds behind her fellow Brit.

Atherton, who rides for Trek Factory Racing, will now look to maintain her push towards the world title in the remaining two rounds of the series.

The penultimate race is in La Bresse, France, on Sunday August 26, before the series concludes in Lenzerheide, Switzerland on Sunday September 9.

Atherton's brother Gee, meanwhile, finished a creditable eighth in the men's elite in his 100th world cup start - despite nursing a broken hand.

Freya makes it gold double at Europeans

ELLESMERE Titans swimmer Freya Anderson dug deep to claim her second gold of the European Championships as she steered home the women's 200m freestyle relay team.

Anderson's performance in Glasgow on the final leg, when she timed 1:56.0 in the process of overhauling leaders Russia, was all the more impressive given she had been in the pool less than an hour previously to qualify for the individual 100m freestyle final.

Eleanor Faulkner, Kathryn Green-slade and Holly Hibbott had put the 17-year-old Shropshire swimmer in position to fight for a medal but gold looked in doubt until the teenager's explosive final leg.

It was the second day running she had anchored a team to glory after leading the mixed 4x100m medley relay team to victory.

Kauber quits TNS

ESTONIAN striker Kevin Kauber has parted company with The New Saints after having limited opportunities since arriving at the club back in January having played in Finland, Latvia and Slovenia.

Manager Scott Ruscoe said: "We would like to wish Kevin Kauber all the best with his move to Finland to find regular first team football."

Big weekend on horizon for Oswestry

CRICKET by John Bridgwater

ON-SONG Oswestry put their promotion credentials to the test when they head to high flying Kidderminster in the Birmingham Cricket League division one on Saturday (12noon).

The Morda Road men remain well placed in fourth spot after a rain affected six-wicket win over Malvern side Barnards Green last weekend.

Victory kept them in fourth spot, eight points adrift of second placed Shifnal with six games remaining - and the early season threat of relegation now seems a distant memory. But they now face a stern test on Saturday against a Kidderminster side going well at the top of the table and seemingly on course for a return to the top flight.

Robbie Clarke's men will have a score to settle after losing by three wickets at home to the Worcestershire side in early June after being dismissed for 151. But Oswestry are now a different proposition, with the batsmen continuing their consistent form in helping their side to a six wicket victory over Barnards Green in a rain-affected encounter at Morda Road.

Set to score 239 off their allotted 50 overs, the hosts were always in control despite being halted by the rain on 190-4 with 11 overs remaining.

However, they were well ahead on the Duckworth Lewis rules, and duly picked up maximum points.

♦♦♦♦

It's a red letter day for Oswestry on Sunday as Morda Road gears up to host Minor Counties cricket after an absence of four years when Shropshire take on old foes Wales.

Play is from 11am to 7pm for the three days with a President's lunch being held for invited guests on the Sunday.

Anyone wishing to enjoy a two-course lunch in the main pavilion on the Monday or Tuesday of the game should contact Hugh Roberts on 07971 963016. The cost is from £10 per head.

Town boss sees defeat as off-day

FC OSWESTRY Town will be looking for improvements when they host Alsager Town at Park Hall in the Hallmark North West Counties League division one (south) on Saturday (3pm).

After picking up four points from their opening two outings, Town were well beaten 4-0 at home to Wythenshawe Town despite making a bright start.

"We had an off-day both individually and collectively, and the lads know they need to do better," said manager Matt Burton.

"We've still got a lot of players out. We've been putting square pegs into round holes for the last three games, and it caught up with us.

"But that's no excuse. We need to perform a lot better if we are going to do well in this league.

"We have to learn from this and put it behind us, but I know Andy Turner, the manager at Alsager, and he will have his side well organised."

Frustratingly, Town are still waiting on international clearance on no fewer than seven players they have brought in.

After two narrow away defeats, **ST MARTINS** hit the road again when they head to Stockport Town on Saturday.

They did enough return from Stone Old Alleynians with some reward, and could take plenty of positives, but were ultimately edged out 1-0 in an evenly poised encounter.

ELLESMERE RANGERS, who have lost their opening three outings this season, will want to halt the early slump against Wythenshawe Amateurs at Beech Grove.

After two league defeats, the Meresiders went out of the FA Cup last weekend with a 1-0 exit at home to Leicester Road in the extra qualifying round. Matt Langham got the only goal of the game for the visitors five minutes from time.

Llan looking for more of the same

BUOYED by a terrific opening day win, Llanrhaeadr make Saturday's Huws Gray Cymru Alliance trip to Buckley Town in good heart.

An early strike from joint boss Marc Griffiths earned Llan a shock 1-0 opening day victory over much fancied Rhyl at Llansantffraid's Treflan.

Despite celebrating a superb start to the season, the villagers won't be getting carried away as they know there are plenty of stern challenges ahead after stepping up from the Mid Wales League.

"It was a magnificent performance from all the players who gave everything," said chairman Mel Roberts.

GUILDFIELD, who opened with a 2-1 win away to newcomers Conwy Borough, play their first home game on Saturday against early season favourites Bangor City managed by former TNS boss Craig Harrison (2.30).

"It's going to be tough, but they're expected to win the league, so there will be no pressure on us," said manager Nathan Leonard.

TNS FACING AN UPHILL BATTLE

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

FACING a two goal deficit, The New Saints know they will have to produce one of their greatest comebacks if they are to salvage their Europa League ambitions in Thursday's clash at FC Midtjylland.

A brace of headed goals from striker Paul Onuachu in the first leg at the Cardiff City Stadium put the classy Danes firmly in charge of the third qualifying round tie.

And it left the Saints with it all to do in this week's return leg in Denmark if they are to progress to the play-round, where they would meet either Sweden's Malmo or Hungary outfit Videoton.

Despite being 2-0 down, boss Scott Ruscoe insists the Welsh Premier champions still have everything to play for when they step out at the 12,000 seater MCH Arena in Herning.

"You don't get to this stage in Europe just to lie down, and go out with a whimper," he said.

"At 2-0, we're still in the tie, and we will give it a good go. It's only half way. It was no disgrace in losing 2-0 to a side like that, it wasn't the worst result in the world.

"We know it's going to be tough as the gulf between the clubs in terms of resources is massive, but the lads were first class last week, worked hard and didn't stop to the final whistle.

"We had chances to have got a goal, we broke well at times, but we were a bit indecisive. You have to take chances in games like this.

"But I am confident we can score over there with the way we play."

He added: "It was disappointing for them to score from set pieces in the first leg as we knew beforehand they were very dangerous from them.

"Apart from that, we stayed switched on in possession and defensively as a team, and looked fit



New Saints midfielder Aaron Edwards holds off FC Midtjylland's at Cardiff City Stadium

and strong. I thought we could have done better with the chances we created, and it's fine margins against clubs like this."

♦♦♦♦

After their trip to Denmark, The New Saints have a crunch JD Welsh Premier clash at one of their chief title rivals Connah's Quay Nomads on Sunday (4pm). The Nomads, who were last season's runners-up behind TNS, opened their league campaign with a 7-0 romp away to league newcomers Llanelli.

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